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BAY AREA REPORTER

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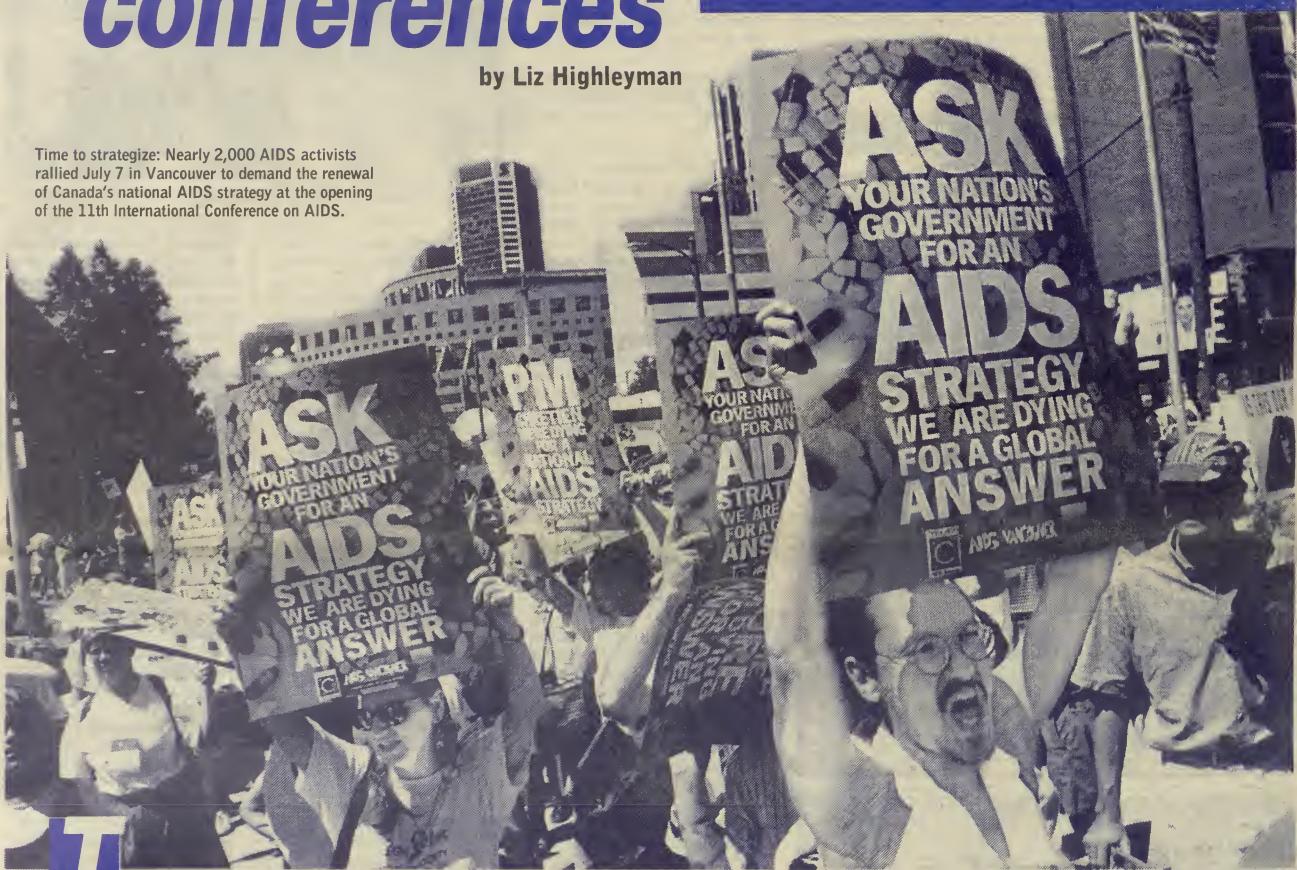
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A tale of (at least) two conferences

The XI International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver

by Liz Highleyman

Time to strategize: Nearly 2,000 AIDS activists rallied July 7 in Vancouver to demand the renewal of Canada's national AIDS strategy at the opening of the 11th International Conference on AIDS.



Rick Gerhardt

The XI International Conference on AIDS got under way Sunday, July 7 in Vancouver, Canada. This is the largest ever of the now-biannual conferences, with 15,000 participants and 5,380 abstract presentations. While the conference organizers promoted the theme of "One World, One Hope," activists called this message into question, asking, "What World? What Hope?"

The event could almost be described as two conferences, one a forum for promising medical advances, and the other

focused on prevention and community building in the absence of access to these promising developments.

On Sunday afternoon, activists held a demonstration in front of the conference site. At one point, several activists engaged in a shouting match with three members of "ACT UP/San Francisco," who were on hand to promote their message of opposition to mainstream drugs. ACT UP/SF member Dave Pasquarelli claimed that "the AIDS conference is bought-out hype." ACT UP/Golden Gate members then led

the assembled crowd in a chant of "We need choices, not insane voices."

Canadian AIDS activists demanded a renewal of the soon-to-expire Canadian national AIDS strategy. Openly gay Member of Parliament Svend Robinson addressed the rally, saying, "Shame on the government of Canada" for its failure to give AIDS the attention it deserves.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien did not attend

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Same-sex marriage bill stalls in Sacto

by Clark McKinley, UPI

After three and a half hours of hearings on a proposal allowing California to refuse recognition of same-sex marriages performed out of state, Senate Democrats successfully stalled the bill on Tuesday, June 8.

Republican State Assemblyman Pete Knight's proposal, AB 1982, would be applicable if the state of Hawaii legalizes same-sex marriage this year or next, as expected. The bill received a 3-1 vote — two short of approval, with five abstentions — and was likely to advance with hostile amendments.

Republicans who had supported the measure initially abstained from voting after committee Democrats inserted provisions for wide-ranging domestic partnership rights to same-sex couples.

Most of the proponents' testimony at the hearing focused on their claims about the need to safeguard "traditional" marriage.

"I think there is concern about what same-sex marriage will do,

and I am one who believes that we should not recognize same-sex marriage because that's a significant departure from public policy," Knight said. "I think it degrades the sanctity of marriage."

Legalization in Hawaii would open the door for Californians to fly to Hawaii, get married, and return to demand that their marriages be recognized at home, as are those heterosexual marriages performed in other states, Knight told the committee.

Committee Chairman Charles Calderon, D-Los Angeles, said defending traditional marriage may prove unnecessary if Hawaii's court decision is delayed. The Hawaii Legislature, meanwhile, could put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot and head off legalization of same-sex marriage, he said.

To keep it alive, Knight asked them to move the bill forward to the Appropriations Committee in hopes of rescinding the amendments in committee or later on the Senate floor.

The bill passed the Assembly on a bare majority vote. Knight said he has the 22 votes needed to get it off the Senate floor to the desk

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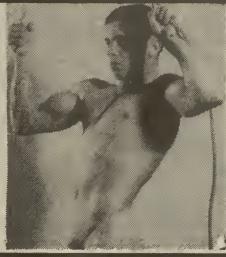
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Transgenders, friends win 'best float' in Alameda July 4 parade

by Cynthia Laird

They danced in bright red, yellow, and blue feathered costumes at the Mayor's Fourth of July Parade in Alameda last week, throwing candy to onlookers and adding a brilliant splash of color against the foggy sky. And when the marching was over, "Viva Las Vegas," a group made up of transgendered persons and friends dressed as showgirls, captured the event's award for best float.

The queer community was represented at the parade this year as never before. Out on the Island (OOTI) and the Alameda Lesbian Potluck Society also took part in the event, which is generally recognized as the Bay Area's largest Independence Day parade. The two contingents were not positioned together at the event.

Heather, a transgender resident of Alameda who's lived in the city for 30 years, organized the "Viva Las Vegas" contingent that danced down the street to tunes blasting from her pick-up truck—which was itself adorned with a ruby red shoe for the occasion. Some group members were transgender persons, while others were supportive friends. Most of them were in dresses and feathers, but some wore other outfits.

Francis Vavra, an out female-to-male transsexual living in Oakland, was one of those who took part in the contingent. Decked out in a black pin-stripe suit for the event, he told the B.A.R. Heather had just wanted to decorate her truck, be out, and be part of the parade.

His life partner, Roxanna Rotchette, also took part in the parade.

Later, as the "showgirls" passed the crowd on Park Street, one older woman was heard asking a man, "What about those girls in the feathers? What was that about?"

"I don't think they were girls," replied the man.

"Oh, my," the woman said.

But the group received applause from most of the residents who lined streets along the approximately four-mile parade route. At the end of the march,



Cynthia Laird

Birds of a feather: The Viva Las Vegas showgirls were a crowd favorite.

they received a large trophy from Mayor Ralph Appenzato for having the best float.

An estimated 10,000 people watched the three hour parade that featured approximately 150 entrants.

Vavra said that Alameda resident Phil Ojeda received the trophy from the mayor. In 1993, Ojeda marched alone in the parade carrying the rainbow flag.

"We entered the parade just for the fun of it," Heather said, adding that although the parade moved too fast for the group to do their routines completely, participants still enjoyed themselves.

No mere 'men in dresses'

The approximately 120 people who marched with OOTI and the potluck society also received positive responses from a large number of parade watchers. Their group began with a pale yellow 1978 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow II and a red 1965 Cadillac DeVille convertible leading the way in front of the OOTI banner. Both cars sported rainbow streamers and flags.

Last year OOTI received a first place award in the parade, making this the second year in a row that a group from the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community has won a prize in the event.

San Francisco resident Gus Sabella, who owns the Rolls with his partner Dale Long, said he became interested in participating in

the parade after he saw Allen on TV. Lately, he said, he has been following OOTI's successful efforts to get the city to issue a proclamation recognizing the gay and lesbian community.

"I thought it was time I start getting involved," he told the B.A.R.

OOTI received the proclamation from Appenzato on June 4. The full city council endorsed the mayor's resolution on June 18, capping a year of controversy that led to the formation of OOTI and its active involvement in the Alameda community.

After the parade, the "Viva Las Vegas" group joined OOTI members at their barbecue for an afternoon of socializing and networking. There were eighty people at that event.

"It was nice to network with them afterwards," Vavra said, "so the dialogue continued between transgenders and gays and lesbians." He pointed out that not all transgender people identify as being gay or lesbian, and some are not out at all.

Heather told the B.A.R. on July 5 that she was upset at the coverage their group received from an Alameda newspaper that described them as "men in dresses."

"We were a mixed group," Heather said. "We had straight women, transsexuals, transvestites, drag queens, lesbians, and gays."

"We represented every segment of society." ▼

Gay cheerleaders to hold open audition

by Cynthia Laird

The Bay Area Raw Rahs, San Francisco's popular gay cheerleading team, will hold their annual open audition on Sunday, July 21, Squad Captain Steve Burke has announced.

Two audition preparation workshops are slated for the coming week: from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 14; and on Tuesday, July 16, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Anyone with an interest in cheerleading, dance, acrobatics, and

gymnastics is encouraged to attend the workshops and audition.

The Raw Rahs train year-round and perform at parades, festivals, talent shows, athletic events, and community gatherings, both locally and throughout California.

The team will be attending a four-day cheerleading camp at UC Santa Cruz in August, and will travel to Texas to participate in the Dallas pride parade and festival in late September.

In August 1998, the Raw Rahs will represent San Francisco at

Gay Games V in Amsterdam.

The squad was formed in 1980 and is the longest running professional caliber gay cheerleading team in history, Burke said. The Raw Rahs are a community arts unit of the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts. ▼

To register for the workshops and audition, call Burke at (510) 228-7497. All events will be held at the Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission Street in San Francisco.

Shanti announces lawsuit outcome, repays debts

by Dennis Conkin

Shanti Project held a Tuesday, July 9 City Hall press conference, including brief remarks by Mayor Willie Brown, to announce it had won \$712,000 in damages from Antonini Professional Corporation, its former accountant.

Most of the judgment, awarded in binding arbitration last month, will be used to repay \$449,748 in unauthorized AIDS service delivery expenditures the agency made during a 1991-92 contract period.

Calling the 18-year-old agency "a cornerstone" of the San Francisco AIDS social service delivery system, Brown said he was happy to accept the repayment — which would go "back into the pot."

"I'm happy to see the city get back the \$450,000. I'm certain that the \$450,000 will come back to Shanti," Brown said.

Shanti Executive director Gloria Sandoval said the repayment of the funds will represent the closure of a chapter in the agency's history.

"Today is one of the days for which I have waited since I accepted the position of executive director of Shanti some two and a half years ago," Sandoval said. "The other is the day we can put Shanti out of business because we have been effective in finding a cure for AIDS."

Sandoval became executive director of the agency in November 1993, seven months after the April 1993 resignation of Shanti Project director Eric Rofes and deputy director Melinda Paras.

Rofes and Paras resigned from the agency two months after a February 1993 San Francisco Health Department of AIDS Office review of eight Shanti housing contracts worth \$2.7 million revealed the improper expenditures.

The AIDS Office also acknowledged they had been contacted by former Shanti housing manager Ellen Hartke, who charged the pair with mismanaging the agency's budget — and its mission.

Once the city's largest AIDS housing contractor, Shanti eventually transferred Shanti House, a 65-bed residence for people with AIDS, to Catholic Charities, three 24-hour care houses to Visiting Nurses and Hospice, and 12 congregate living flats to Baker Places.

Significant upgrades

The agency's ability to raise funds to support its work was badly damaged in the ensuing scandal, despite the fact that it



Making good: Shanti Executive Director Gloria Sandoval speaks at City Hall July 9, following the presentation of a symbolic check for \$449,748 to Mayor Willie Brown.

continued to provide an estimated 2,000 clients with peer counseling, case management, and practical support, plus cultural and recreational activities.

According to Sandoval, \$250,000 of the settlement was awarded as damages from the adverse impact of news reports about the agency in the *Bay Area Reporter* and the now-defunct *SF Sentinel*.

Since 1993, Shanti has "significantly upgraded" its financial management system — and the last of three consecutive yearly audits have revealed no material weaknesses in Shanti's internal controls, Sandoval said. She added that the

agency's accounting systems are in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles, as well as the specific requirements of all government contracts.

Shanti was represented by Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison in the lawsuit and subsequent binding arbitration against Antonini.

Any damages awarded in excess of Shanti's debt and legal fees will be credited to the agency's forthcoming \$2 million "Into The Light" fundraising campaign, said Shanti development director Paul A. Vander Waerd.

The campaign has raised more than \$1.5 million of its \$2 million goal. ▼

Meet Lieutenant Dirk, for God's sake

A gay former U.S. Navy lieutenant will travel from Virginia to the East Bay to meet and chat with guests at a July 12 El Cerrito fundraiser for Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries.

After battling the Navy for three years over his discharge on sexual orientation grounds, Lieutenant Dirk Selland recently received an honorable discharge and some benefits in a negotiated settlement that prevents a lawsuit.

Selland is a member of an LLGM-associated congregation, Messiah Lutheran Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Since its beginnings in 1990 — and the controversial ordinations of three openly gay candidates by San Francisco's St. Francis and First United Lutheran churches — Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries has become a national organization providing financial, spiritual, emotional, and practical support to pastors and congregations ministering to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people.

The Friday evening reception is from 6:30-8 p.m. at the home of Reverend Donna Duensing and Dr. Robert Smith, located at 7234 View Avenue in El Cerrito. ▼

—Dennis Conkin

Tickets are \$50 per person. For more information contact Thomas Ormsby at (415) 621-2635.

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SF starts countdown to invasion of LGBTQ youth

by Jesse Costello-Good

This Saturday, July 13, more than 200 queer youth from as far off as Chicago and Argentina are expected to converge on San Francisco for Young Loud and Proud, a youth leadership conference for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) youth.

The two-day free conference is produced by LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center) with the help of many local LGBTQ youth-service providers. Touted by its brochure as "By Youth, For Youth, About Youth," Young Loud and Proud is designed to help empower queer youth and enable them to control their own lives.

The conference will feature five workshop sessions with over 60 individual workshops and caucuses that range from a discussion on how to prevent HIV infection to how to find a queer studies program in college.

Young Loud and Proud is being held at Marina Middle School, and spaces are still available for LGBTQ youth 25 and under.



Jane Philomen Cleland

SF queer youth are expected to play a large role at the conference.

On Saturday night, as part of the conference, LYRIC is putting on "Summer Bash '96," a dance party for LGBTQ youth, from 8 p.m. to midnight at 100 Collingwood Street. DJs Olga T., Judge, and Jonathan guaranteed to keep the music going into the night.

Young Loud and Proud promises to be a milestone in the history of queer youth. If the conference is

a success, youth from all over the world will come together to exchange ideas on how to better serve and lead their communities. ▼

People 25 and under who want to attend the conference should call LYRIC at (415) 703-6150, or show up Saturday morning at 9 a.m.

Gay man named SF community college board prez

by Dennis Conkin

Longtime openly gay community activist Lawrence Wong became the president of the San Francisco Community College Board Monday, July 1.

Wong has been vice president since his election to the board in November 1994.

A leader in anti-bias efforts throughout the 75,000-student, ten-campus community college system, Wong has been an advocate for keeping the anti-gay military Reserve Officer Training Corps out of the college system.

"As you know, the board some time ago resolved to stop using resources to promote the military," Wong said.

In addition to the policy banning the military from recruiting students, the college system also will not provide information or assistance to students who want to obtain military scholarships — de-



Jane Philomen Cleland

spite a threatened loss of federal funds connected with the program.

Wong said that a colleague's recent alternate proposal, to allow gay and lesbian ROTC units, is unrealistic, and said the military deserves no support for college-

type programs while it continues to discriminate against lesbian and gay college students.

"Most of us felt that it [the proposal] wasn't practical or realistic," Wong told the B.A.R. "If the president of the United States couldn't get the military to accept openly gay people, why should they allow it at the ROTC level?"

A former Human Rights Commissioner, Wong has served as a member of the state Democratic Party Central Committee and is founding president of the Asian Pacific Democratic Club. He is also a former member of the AIDS Emergency Fund board of directors.

Wong is the only gay male on the community college board. African-American lesbian Andrea Shorter was appointed to the board by Mayor Willie Brown last month. She replaced lesbian attorney Leslie Katz, who was appointed by Brown to the seat vacated by Supervisor Willie Kennedy. ▼

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Midnight Castro area armed robbery averted

by Dennis Conkin

An armed robber held a gun to the neck of a victim and demanded cash from her two friends in a Friday, June 21 Castro district robbery attempt, but escaped with an accomplice when the scheme was aborted.

The 12:30 a.m. incident occurred near the corner of 17th and Hartford Street. It was cut short when one of the women – not realizing the hold-up man held a gun to her friend's neck – blew her safety whistle, causing the pair of would-be robbers to run down the street.

The trio of women have requested anonymity in news reports because of concerns over the assailants' possible retaliation.

"We were on our way to our car. I saw these two guys coming over to us and I did not feel good. One walked up behind my friend and grabbed her and put the gun to her neck," one victim told the

Bay Area Reporter.

The violent incident then began to quickly take on a "dream-like" quality, she said.

"One of them said, 'If somebody doesn't come up with any money, she's going to get popped.' It was definitely a gun in her face. It wasn't a water pistol. They kept asking for money."

The assailants were "nervous and scared," said the woman who used a safety whistle she pulled from her backpack.

"I didn't know there was a gun or I may not have blown it," she said.

"They took off running. They ran out of there fast."

Although the whistle scared the assailants off, the woman expressed amazement that no one in the neighborhood responded.

"I am surprised. I'm from the ACT UP generation. Years ago everyone would have come running when they heard a whistle," she said.

Whistles are primarily useful for preventing violence and for warn-

ing people, according to Community United Against Violence Executive Director Lester Olmsted-Rose. But, he added, "it's not necessarily going to prevent an attack."

"I wouldn't necessarily recommend it when a weapon is involved," he told the B.A.R. "The best tactic is to learn self-defense skills."

Olmsted-Rose urged people to respond quickly to a whistle for assistance – either by offering direct assistance or by calling 911.

He also urged victims of such violent incidents to report them to CUAV, as well as to the police.

"We provide crisis counseling and can help with access to counselors if people need something more long-term," he said. "This kind of violence can be very traumatic and affect people for long periods of time."

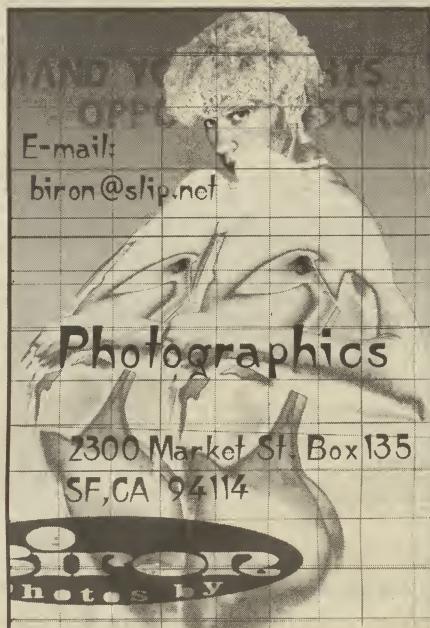
Olmsted-Rose also said that CUAV would continue to provide whistles free of charge to lesbian and gay community members who want them.

The attempted robbery occurred within days of another reported Hartford Street incident, involving a possible mugging by a gang of youths. ▼

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Graphic from Photos By Biron Moby Dick Exhibition
June 14 to July 10, 1996 (closed down June 18, 1996)

Gay business owner named to Small Business Commission

San Francisco businessman Jose Najar will be sworn in Thursday, July 11 as a member of the city's Small Business Advisory Commission, Mayor Willie Brown's office has announced.

Najar, who is openly gay, said he is excited about his appointment and looks forward to serving on the panel. The commission looks at issues affecting the small business community in San Francisco.

Najar is a co-owner of the Andore Inn in the Mission District. The inn also has a full bar and restaurant downstairs, and Najar and his partner live on site.

"I not only work in the Mission, I live here as well," Najar told the B.A.R. "I'm very excited and very honored to serve on the commission."

Najar said it's also exciting to him to be able to see how the Mission District has changed over the past year with various redevelopment efforts, including his business. ▼ —Cynthia Laird

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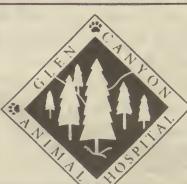
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OPEN FORUM

Actions, reactions, & inactions

According to the great gravity discoverer Sir Isaac Newton, "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." That's obviously very true on Wall Street these days, (where good news that fewer Americans are languishing without jobs immediately leads to a free-fall of stock prices) and in Vancouver (where a surfeit of good medical news may be leading to a free-fall of HIV protection practices).

Ever since word got out that protease inhibitors and the non-nuke Nevirapine dramatically reduce HIV levels, people have been using the word "cure" with increasing frequency. We've even heard stories about PWAs' friends and relatives calling to congratulate them that the end to the disease has been found. Those stories, springing as they do from loved ones' longings, are sort of touching and bittersweet; unfortunately, some other stories we've heard – about people thinking they don't need to protect themselves against HIV as much as they did last month or last year – are simply horrific.

Whatever good is coming out of Vancouver this week could easily be overshadowed by its equal and opposite potential. If people get the idea that safer sex isn't still necessary, and if legislators get the idea that research isn't still necessary, the results will be catastrophic.

By the way, we'd like to say that we are not trying to divide the community into the HIV-negatives and HIV-positives, with the negatives being somehow better. What we are saying, in exactly the same way we would tell people there is neither dishonor nor joy in getting food poisoning, is that an ounce of prevention is still worth more than a pound of whatever is passing as a "cure" for AIDS these days.

As for Wall Street, this may not be a "gay issue," but evidence piles up every day to convince us that something is seriously wrong there. For months now, stock prices have fallen every time news is released that some of the rest of us have gotten jobs.

That is an example of what Republicans' "trickle-down" economics really bring: a war between Main Street and Wall Street.

What makes it weirder still is how we've been listening to an increasing call for welfare reform for the last three years, and to

politicians on both sides of the aisle saying the country needs to get those women and children off the dole and onto the employment rolls. Now, we have to assume, even if such a change were possible it would be (at least, in this post-1984 doublespeak) "bad" for the economy.

Think about it: last week's strong employment report caused the Dow Jones to drop over 150 points in a day, so one can only imagine what panic there would be if everyone on welfare – people who are not now, and have never been, counted as the "unemployed," incidentally – went back to work.

The Republicans and so-called blue dog Democrats who push so hard to get people off welfare obviously know there are no jobs for them. *And that's the way they like it.* They also know – and so do Wall Street managers and anyone who has taken an economics course – that the higher a nation's unemployment rate, the lower its inflation rate. (It's an oversimplification, and it doesn't explain the "stagflation" of the Nixon era, but it's true enough.) Which means that the people who are "not working" are, by

their inaction, *working very hard to keep Wall Street rich.*

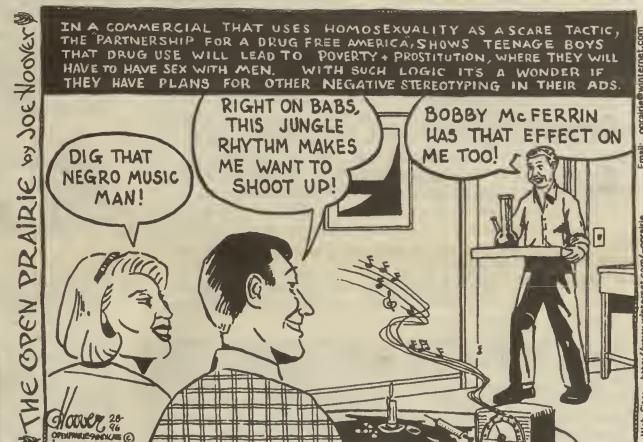
And that means that perhaps they deserve a raise.

One final note: Although the recently released report by the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS does take Clinton to task for his inaction – sort of – it lacks the kind of anger we'd like to see. It certainly falls short of the anger we feel. We have seen too many friends die, and too few instances where our president cares enough to listen to his experts. (Or even his predecessors' experts: the Reagan and Bush panels' recommendations have still not been implemented.) It's infuriating.

The best thing about the report might be that it brings the concept of anal condoms to a wider audience. Those little devices are, in our opinion, the best new HIV prevention idea ever. Once again we urge readers who have anal sex to get one. Shove it up your ass. See if it isn't great.

Do it today. Because despite what you may be hearing from Vancouver, *the epidemic is not over.* ▼

Editorial



Equality yes, marriage no thanks

by Kate Raphael, Lesbian and GAY Insurrection

I have rarely read anything as irresponsible as Michael Botkin's commentary "Lefty queer defeatism" published in the June 27 issue of the B.A.R. Mr. Botkin attempts to discredit our position on the issue of marriage, based on his claim that we are a "front group" for Prairie Fire Organizing Committee.

For the record, LAGAI has never been connected with Prairie Fire or any other political organization. We are an independent lesbian and gay liberation group. Some of us have friends who are in Prairie Fire, and we have worked in coalitions with them and many other groups, but we don't want to join and they probably wouldn't have us. And if recruiting was our goal, we would be pretty much of a disaster, since we have hovered at 6-8 members for nearly ten years.

Botkin devotes a whole paragraph to challenging our right to use the acronym LAGAI for our new name, Lesbian and Gay Insurrection. What is he, the acronym police? LAGAI's full name was once Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention in Latin America. Its focus was opposing U.S. military intervention in Central America, supporting queers in Latin America and confronting heterosexism in the left. This included actively and vocally opposing the anti-gay and AIDS-phobic policies of the Cuban government while supporting its

achievements in healthcare, literacy, and social equality.

Since 1985, we have focused more on domestic lesbian/gay issues and AIDS issues, while continuing to oppose U.S. militarism. We wanted our name to reflect more of what we really do, but we liked our acronym, LAGAI (pronounced La Gay). Earlier this year we agreed on Lesbian and GAY Insurrection, and we have had it on the last three issues of our newsletter *UltraViolet*. We are proud of our history as an anti-intervention group and are making no attempt to hide it.

The flier Michael Botkin attacked was given out at our Mass Lesbian/Gay Divorce, a very successful event held June 22 at Harvey Milk Plaza. If Botkin had attended the event, or contacted us (contact information was included on the flier), he might have more accurately reflected our politics without having to agree with them.

We do not support the Defense of Marriage Act or any other anti-gay legislation. Of course, gay people must fight it. We believe queers should have every right that straight people have. But not every right is worth fighting for or exercising. During the debates about gays in the military, we said that it is a civil right to be in the military but a human right to stay out of it. We feel the same about marriage.

The heterosexual nuclear family is the basic institution of every authoritarian, re-

pressive society. It is the most dangerous place in the world for women and children. In this country, a woman is battered at least every 15 seconds; at least one in three girls and one in five boys is sexually abused, many by parents or friends of parents. A 1994 Gallop poll found that one in 20 families severely beats their children, leading to three million reported cases of abuse that year. This is not a model lesbians and gay men should emulate.

Botkin suggests that we are incorrectly extrapolating from our own atypical experience of abusive homes. His story about his unprincipled ex-lover, Joe, who was not in LAGAI or Prairie Fire, suggests he is the one who is unfairly generalizing from his own experience.

We share many of the goals of the Freedom To Marry campaign. But marriage is not a good way to obtain healthcare or citizenship, for anybody. We believe we need to fight for quality healthcare for everyone, and the right of all people to live where they want, regardless of marital status and every other kind of status. ▼

Guest Opinion

Anyone who would like to get a copy of LAGAI's anti-marriage flier, or of our newsletter *UltraViolet*, to see for themselves who we are and what we stand for, can write to us at 3543 - 18th St. #26, San Francisco CA 94110 or e-mail kraphael@igc.apc.org.

Male bonding

I read with a smirk the article describing the two heterosexual boys who wish to be legally married. I tend to agree with the one's mom who was quoted as not knowing what to think of it. It seems that the two boys really don't know what it means either. (A lurking cynical voice whispers that the Dame is looking for a green card.) But a legal marriage binds individuals by force of law to share everything for the rest of their lives or until they are legally divorced. They forget that marriage is not only about orifices but also offices. Thus Anders will own all that Andy has and will be entitled to share in his income, real estate, and any other asset which the two may accrue while married. (And vice versa.) To end a marriage contract is expensive. (I just paid 40% for one.) Once the law changes to allow such things, I think persons who have a grasp of what it means to be married will be very careful who they marry. Moreover, if marriage is available to men who wish to marry men (or women to women), the status of "living together" will be less acceptable to society, as it has been in the past for heterosexual couples. The freedom from defined responsibility will be gone for gay lovers. And after screeching so loud for the bondage of marriage, gays had well better take advantage of it. If these boys are truly committed to sharing their assets and future assets with each other, despite the lack of intimacy in a relationship, why object? But boys, marriage, like a bath, is not so hot once you get in!

Thomas M. Walsh, MD
San Francisco

Single and proud

Just like all the other dykes and fags, I've been thinking about this gay marriage situation. I'm appalled by the homophobia of both the Republicans and our Democratic "friend" Bill Clinton. I firmly believe that we queers should have the same rights as straight people, but can't we do better than imitating the heterosexual nuclear family?

Let's not forget that 50% of marriages end in divorce, and the other half often stay together for religious, economic, or child-related issues. If gay people want to enter an institution with far less than a 50/50 chance for happiness, then they shouldn't be stopped by all the politicians lining up to kiss the ass of the religious right. However, I wish that my lavender sisters and brothers would be more respectful of the full diversity of queer relationships.

One of the absolutely fabulous things about being gay is that you don't have to get married. Many of us "singles" are happy to build our lives alone, with friends, or with our pets. Whether one is single and celibate or single in the sex clubs, one can be just as "complete" as two in a committed relationship. Besides, if marriage is so sacred, then why are the bridesmaid dresses so ugly?

What about all of the uniquely queer types of relationships? What about your drag mentor, who helped you cross-dress for your first Halloween in the Castro? What about the Dyke/Fag friendships that defy the "logic" of both het and same-sex gay friendships? What about fuck buddies and S/M relationships? And how about serial monogamy and that army of ex-lovers fighting for gay liberation? Are the AIDS buddies going to be forced to take a back seat to the "married" people?

If being in a one-on-one relationship floats your boat, that's great. If you're single with a great set of friends, that's great, too. Let's value all of our relationships and not put one model forth as the "real" thing. Before the "Honor Thy Lover" crowd rushes to their keyboards to write about how I missed the point, remember that all of us "unmarried" types are on your side.

The ban on gay marriages plays a role in excluding queers from healthcare and legal immigrant status. So let's have national healthcare and open the borders.

Thomas Reynolds
San Francisco

Mural magic

A while back Tom Moore wrote about an 8-story mural on Senior Housing, Bethany Center. He had complained about HUD funds being used for it. None of HUD's money is being used.

The scaffolding is up – you can feel the anticipation – like circus tent poles or a theatre curtain. It will represent the people living there and may just pull everyone together.

Isn't a mural better than graffiti?

Tom Moore mentioned the director's being gay. With about half a dozen gay people living there, maybe they will be represented, too.

As a tenant there, I can't find one reason against it. Sit back, Tom, and enjoy the flowers – they should be beautiful.

Chuck Kennedy
San Francisco

Senior follies

I'm a retired person and a volunteer for the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society. I transcribe taped interviews of gays and lesbians that cover various subjects: gay life in the '40s, '50s, '60s, S.F. bars and baths, porno print and nonprint, lesbian elders, artists, McCarthy era, to name but a few of the interview topics. These interviews, tapes or transcripts or both, are available for study by interested parties at the GLHS offices between 2 and 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The office is located at 973 Market Street, Suite 400, phone 415-777-5455.

I love doing the transcribing and hearing the stories, especially from the folks who are my age or older (I'm 62). What I find curious is that many of them say that the "good old days" were better, that they were a lot more fun than today. Some say that the sub rosa life and the secret words, e.g. gay, trade, jam, lily, and gay life in general was fun and exciting in spite of the risk of bar raids and harassment. Some of them say that gay life today by comparison is dull. Well, I say to each his own. I personally wouldn't trade one today for one of those yesterdays. Those were horrible times prior to Stonewall. I was fired from a government job in Florida in the late '50s because I was seen on three occasions patronizing a queer bar. There were no attorneys who would defend such a charge in those days.

To my contemporaries who miss those "good old days," you need only travel to Texas, Florida, Idaho or any of forty some other states (hell, just go to Contra Costa) and you'll find yourself back in the bigoted and homophobic era of the McCarthy '50s. A judge in Texas recently gave a light sentence to a murderer, stating that his gay victim probably asked for it.

Hey, fellow seniors, is it the old days that you pine for or is it really the excitement of youth? Enjoy today. Except for the AIDS epidemic, life is good and gay freedom is great! To borrow a phrase from *La Cage aux Folles*, these are "the best of times." Let's enjoy them.

Rod Geddes
San Francisco

SM oversight

Your SM resource guide (June 27) inadvertently left out the 15 Association of San Francisco. Since we are the only gay male SM club in the Bay Area, we'd like to correct the oversight (and 50 lashes to Beth El- liott).

The 15 Association is a men's SM group with 85 members (founded Feb. 1980), which has monthly parties in San Francisco and a yearly 4-day run called "Bootcamp." We also raise funds for charities in San Francisco; last year, AIDS Benefit Counselors and AIDS Emergency Fund were beneficiaries. Our address is P.O. Box 421302, San Francisco, CA 9412-1302, phone (415) 673-0452. We play safe, sane, consensual and fun SM, and by the way, we are the *Leather Journal's* Club of the Year (1996).

Peter Fiske
Vice Chairman, 15 Association/SF

[Sorry about the omission, and any others that occurred. In compiling the lists we gained new appreciation for the slogan "We are everywhere."]

Working with HIV

Thank you for bringing to the community's attention ("Workshop on employment and government benefits for people with HIV Wednesday," June 20) the third of the recurring workshops "Working While Receiving Government Benefits: The Do's and Don'ts" presented by Positive Resource, which was led on June 26th by Ruth Crowe and Ellen Stein of the Financial Benefits Program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. I would like to clarify a misrepresentation of the history of these workshops, particularly because I think it's a terrific example of collaboration within the HIV services community to meet emerging needs.

The first of these workshops was held on March 6, the brainchild of and led by Irwin Keller, Executive Director of AIDS Legal Referral Panel. Irwin recommended inviting benefits specialists from AIDS Benefits Counselors and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Financial Benefits Program to join the AIDS Legal Referral Panel in a revolving presentation of this workshop. Mairi McKeever from ABC then led the second of these workshops on April 24th.

This inter-agency cooperation has made possible a regular public forum for presentation of information that is important to many people, especially people living with HIV wishing to work. I believe this type of collaboration is representative of the ways that our community best responds to the needs of people living with HIV.

Mark Misrok
Project Coordinator
Positive Resource

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Gail Sondergaard
Publisher and editor, *Transsexual News Telegraph*
San Francisco

PC Cliff Notes

After living in San Francisco for five years, as well as attending U.C. Berkeley as a cultural studies major, I tend to think that I have witnessed most of the excesses of Bay Area leftist thought (listen to me, I used to think I was a leftist myself). However, I've got to hand it to critic Erin Blackwell, in her review of *Watermelon Woman* (June 20), for the epitome of insipid PC thought, and I quote: "What might be unbearable narcissism in a white man is a virtuoso piece of identity filmmaking from a young black lesbian."

Oh, really? So, merely changing the race of the artist makes trash into treasure? Hmmm. With standards like that, who needs critics? Just check the racial ID card of every new "genius." Then throw in a facile reference to "the white supremacist cultural hegemony" and you've got a particularly egregious example of Cultural Studies Cliff Notes masquerading as insightful analysis.

Criticism should consist of something more than repeating recycled academic pabulum – for instance, original ideas regarding the subject matter. Unless, of course, this little gem of journalism was in reality a fiendishly clever satire of rote PC-think. If so, my hat's off to Erin for a brilliant faux- "intellectual" parody!

On the other hand, kudos to Beth Elliott on her "Sapphification" column. It is consistently entertaining, well-written, and thought-provoking. I look forward to it. Thanks, Beth!

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Connie comment

Connie Norman is dying. If you've heard Connie in a community debate you know the loss we will all suffer. This truly special soul has been battling AIDS for too many years. If you have been fortunate enough to have been touched by Connie now is the time to let her know how important she's been to all of us and our generations to come.

She was the host of the first weekly gay/lesbian radio talk show in the country. She anchored an access program for over five years on cable. And she continues to write a bi-weekly newspaper column from her bed. She served on countless local, state, and national AIDS task forces.

We can all find strength in her strength. Take a moment to drop her a card. Or a note. Or a favorite photo. But do take the time. Address them to: Connie Norman, Chris Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles CA 90026.

David Reid
West Hollywood, CA

Postmodern syndrome

Davina Gabriel makes the understandable assumption that because I didn't dispute her contentions about the transgender movement that I agree with them. The real reasons I didn't argue with her are more simple: I don't know enough about postmodernism to knowledgeably talk about it and I don't enjoy discussing theory. I do know, however, that postmodernism is one of the intellectual currents of our age and influences almost every bit of criticism, writing or thinking that is done now. To fault the transgender movement for not questioning postmodern assumptions is a charge that can be leveled at almost every other movement, including the modern queer movement. I sympathize with Davina's feeling of being out of step, but calling the transgender community rigid because of that is going a little too far.

As for Martine Rothblatt's book, there was a scathing review of it by Max Wolf in *TNT [Transsexual News Telegraph]* #5, another letter ridiculing Martine in *TNT* #6, a bender-over-backwards-to-find-something-nice-to-say review that appeared in *ScheMail*, to name a few. If the transgender movement was as rigid as she claims, there would be a uniformity of praise for the book, and there isn't. Just because Kate Bornstein, Dallas Denny, and others liked it doesn't mean they are all of one mind on every single issue in the trans community. It's almost as though Davina takes someone disagreeing with her as a sign of rigidity. Many people told her she was wrong because she disagreed with Leslie Feinberg. If they had agreed with her, would they then be open-minded?

I seriously doubt that lesbians are in any danger of being "morally mandated out of existence." There will always be women who love women whether the term 'lesbian' remains in use or not. Despite what the International Gender Bill of Rights says, I think Davina is taking her own paranoia way too seriously and giving far too much weight to events that could conceivably happen, but haven't. Also, I would like to know where and who originated the phrase "morally mandating lesbianism out of existence."

Finally, for those of you who may follow such things, regarding Beth Elliott's 6/20/96 column: I may use a pseudonym, but at least I admit being transsexual – in fact, I'm proud of it.

Gail Sondergaard
Publisher and editor, *Transsexual News Telegraph*
San Francisco

No conflict in animal rights

The recent B.A.R. articles accusing animal rights groups of extremism (Jeff Getty, 6/13 and Bob Roehr, 6/20) exhibited rather flagrant extremism in themselves, in my opinion. I support animal rights and numerous HIV/AIDS-oriented groups and find no conflict in this dual allegiance.

Many animal rights supporters recognize the need for controlled animal experimentation but with two qualifications: 1. greater concern for legitimacy of the research; 2. treatment of the animals that is as humane as possible, given the unnatural and abbreviated lives to which they are usually subjected. What we oppose is the massive animal experimentation industry which supports pseudoresearch involving the same mindless procedures year after year, generally with wasted Federal research money. I don't speak from animal sentimentalism, but from six years as an employee of a medical research organization which used animals in its labs, and too often misused them.

While it is probably true that at this point no computer can emulate human biological functions and responses perfectly, it is clear from so many failed drug experiments that animals make a very inadequate model for human physiological processes, also. How many times have we been cheered by encouraging results from initial test tube and animal experiments only to witness the new wonder drug fail abysmally in human trials. Appropriate computer research may be a much faster avenue to creating accurate models for drug testing than genetically altering animals to simulate human immune responses, and could stretch the research dollar, as well.

With countless others, I rejoice in Getty's improved health, from whatever cause. I wonder if the malicious letters he quoted were really motivated by writers' concerns for animal welfare. They seem more likely to have been written by blatant homophobes using the animal issue as a shield – a more defensible way to spew their venom than simply yelling "Faggot!" Most rational animal rights people do not favor "rats over people," a foolish cheap shot. As for Dan Matthews' alleged statement, "Don't get the disease in the first place, Schmo" – if he said such a thing, he should be ashamed and PETA should dump him as unceremoniously as is a used-up laboratory animal.

While the value of human life is a given beyond dispute, it just doesn't follow that our species is justified in regarding all other species as mere throwaways. Aren't we all – humans/plantlife/animals – part of a total environment, each part of which is worthy of care that is responsible and compassionate?

Thanks for giving us a forum to express our opinions. As for facts, we are all a bit short on this subject.

Ray Barrier
San Francisco

Human supremacism

I take strong exception to Jeff Getty's guest opinion, wherein he dumped on animal rights advocates and basically asserted that the human animal is superior to other animals on the planet. This is bull crap. It is unfortunate that Mr. Getty holds this mainstream (a.k.a. sheep) thinking, which is held by many fundamentalist religious groups as well. I have not heard of any violence that so-called animal rights "extremists" are alleged to have been involved in. I would be opposed to any such violence.

The people who are in favor of animal research seemed to have completely missed the point on this issue. It is the human animal that has ruined the planet, not the other animals on the planet. Humans have created nuclear devices, environmental degradation, world wars, bickering religions and governments of the world, fragrances which make many people ill, tobacco products, child abuse, spousal abuse, and I could go on and on! No other animal on the planet has created this amount of mayhem. And Mr. Getty and the mainstream population think that humans are superior? Think again. I would point out that the intelligence level of some animals is far superior to that of the human animal, and this is especially true in this age of "dumbed-down" humans.

None of us wants to see our loved ones die, but why should the other animals on the planet have to endure a weakened quality of life or even death to save humans when we are clearly the disease of the planet. If some humans would take a moment to picture their dog or cat, for example, being subject to laboratory experimentation or educated themselves about what truly goes on in research laboratories, attitudes about this issue would change overnight.

Chris Coates
San Francisco

Photo op-timism

It is a good thing Jeff Getty doesn't have any allergies to being photographed or from self-centeredness. I do like his spunk, not his methods.

Jeff: keep fighting on. Who knows, maybe the answer is just a photo op away.

William Davis
San Francisco

Chris Leeder
San Francisco

DiFi keeps 'em guessing on '98 run California, here she comes?

by Wayne Friday

A recent statewide poll shows Senator **Dianne Feinstein** as the overwhelming favorite for governor in 1998 of California Democrats. The respected Field Poll, conducted less than a month ago among Democrats across the state, has Feinstein with a commanding 40 percent of California Democrats, a better than two-to-one advantage over Lieutenant Governor **Gray Davis**.

Davis, who's already an announced candidate, won the support of only 18 percent of party members polled. The former California secretary of state and Assembly member is followed closely by current White House Chief of Staff **Leon Panetta**, a former member of Congress from Monterey, who drew 15 percent.

In the Field Poll, fourth place was grabbed by former State Insurance Commissioner **John Garamendi** (now an assistant secretary of the Department of Interior), and fifth by state Controller **Kathleen Connell**, pulling seven percent and four percent, respectively.

Of those voters polled, Feinstein, clearly the best known of the group, comes up with a surprisingly strong 67 percent "favorable" rating, contrasted with only 21 percent giving her an "unfavorable" nod. Davis, on the other hand, racks up a less impressive favorable-unfavorable ratio of 54-24 percent.

Some of Senator Feinstein's closest political advisors tell me that the former mayor is less likely to make another run for governor if the Democrats take control of the U.S. Senate this November. However, if her party fails to make the net gain of four seats they need to create at least a tie in the Senate (with **Al Gore** as the tie-breaker), she might be inclined to make another bid for Sacramento.

This writer recently spoke with the senator at a party at her home and asked what she thought of the just-released poll. Feinstein smiled and was clearly pleased that so many of her guests were talking about the impressive results. As to her decision, she would only coyly say, "We'll see, Wayne, we'll see," before deftly changing the subject to how important it is that President **Bill Clinton** is re-elected.

It is no secret, however, that friends and political supporters close to Senator **Barbara Boxer** are urging Feinstein to run for governor. Another Field Poll released just last week shows Democrat Boxer vulnerable as she looks to her re-election bid in 1998. Just 34 percent of California voters said they are now inclined to re-elect her two years from November, while 48 percent were not inclined to support her (another 18 percent had no opinion). Many feel that the popular Feinstein on the ticket as the gubernatorial nominee would really help Boxer.

Dianne Feinstein for governor and Barbara Boxer for another term in the U.S. Senate would make a strong, attractive team for the Democratic Party ballot in 1998 — and the name of the game



The elusive DiFi: Will she see us into the 21st century?

is winning (sorry about that, Gray). I have the very distinct feeling that we'll see Dianne Feinstein as the Democratic nominee for governor, regardless of who wins control of the U.S. Senate this year.

Politics and poker

The Libertarian Party, holding their national convention in D.C. over the weekend, nominated **Harry Browne**, a financial advisor and author from California, as their choice for president and a woman, **Jo Jorgensen**, for vice president.

"**Beltway Bob**" **Dole** in SF last week picked up a cool \$1.1 million for the GOP in one night, but spent most of the time in the city trashing the "liberal media" for alleged "hypocrisy" on the tobacco issue and trying to assure his worried Republican donors that his presidential campaign is not a lost cause, despite continued dismal polls across the country.

One of my favorites, **Elizabeth Taylor**, was among the thousands of doctors, AIDS activists, scientists, and others in Vancouver, B.C., this week for the 11th International AIDS Conference. Taylor has helped raise nearly \$70 million for research and told reporters Sunday that she "will not rest until we find the cure."

Meanwhile, as researchers and activists from more than 100 countries gathered in Vancouver, the Canadian government announced they would cut \$31 million in annual funding for Canada's principal AIDS program after 1998. Canadian Prime Minister **Jean Chretien** was roundly criticized for refusing to officially open the conference on Sunday, the first time the leader of the host country has not opened the meeting.

In Fort Worth, Texas, a judge last week dismissed a multimillion-dollar palimony suit filed against **Van Cliburn** by a man who claims the famed pianist exposed him to HIV during a 17-year sexual relationship.

One of the hottest rumors locally has former Mayor **Frank Jordan** being urged to seek state Senator **Quentin Kopp's** seat when the "Q" terms out. Assemblywoman **Jackie Speier** is reportedly eyeing the seat as well. Those who think aggressive

panhandling is a real problem here (and it is) should visit New York City. The heavily Democratic City Council and Republican Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** will soon adopt a new law aimed at cracking down hard on overly aggressive panhandlers on city streets and any form of soliciting or begging within ten feet of an automatic teller machine.

(Hey, supes, are you reading this? Some move to stop intimidating panhandling here is long overdue. Oh sure, I know it's a ticklish subject that our politically correct leaders prefer to ignore, but when a 76-year-old, very frail neighbor friend of mine has to be rescued on Castro Street from an abusive, very determined, well-built panhandler who wouldn't let her pass — by two gay men who took him on — I gotta tell you, folks, a change is called for.)

Incidentally, when are the complacent merchants on Castro finally going to get their act together to do something about the growing panhandler/homeless problem there? Both your regular customers and your heavily gay and lesbian tourist visitors are getting fed up!

Remember **Phyllis Schlafly**? Well, the 71-year-old homophobe who still brags that she torpedoed the Equal Rights Amendment is going to the GOP Convention next month in San Diego as a (surprise!) **Pat Buchanan** delegate. She'll have a big hand — and mouth — in shaping the Republican anti-abortion, anti-gay rights, anti-everything platform. My favorite quote on Lady Schlafly was when feminist **Midge Costanza** asserted that Schlafly and **Anita Bryant** "would make a fine set of bookends for Hitler's *Mein Kampf*."

Remember, you've still got time to support AIDS Walk San Francisco on July 21. For info, write AIDS Walk SF, P.O. Box 193920, SF, CA 94114, or write a check to support someone who has already committed to walk the walk beginning and ending at Golden Gate Park.

My Quote of the Week is from **Dr. Paul Volberding**, director of the U.C. AIDS Clinic at SF General Hospital, on the promising recent breakthroughs in combination drug therapies in battling the AIDS pandemic: "We've become believers again. It's possible today to dare to think we might have the tools to eradicate the virus entirely from patients — that's still only a possibility, but it's now our goal!" ▼



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It hasta be Shasta

by Beth Elliott

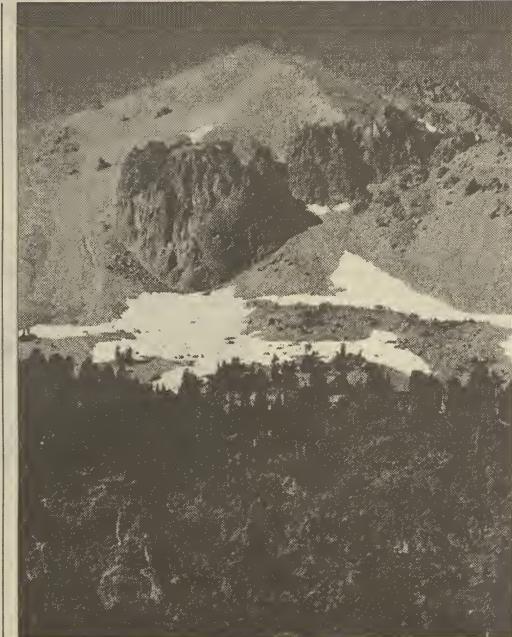
When last we left our heroine, she wondered what about volcanic landscapes makes some girls' hearts go pitty-pat. Fellow female Mom Earth demonstrating the transient nature of human works? Evidence of plate tectonics reminding them of the 180-million-year cycle of continents spreading apart and joining back together, making them feel a conscious part of something way large-scale, resembling lesbian lovemaking on a continental scale? Or our heroine reverting to her Goddess-horny hippie roots yet again? Stay tuned for this week's heart-warming episode!

The highway through Lassen Volcanic National Park enters the park at the southwest (from Red Bluff) and northwest (from Redding) corners, making a wiggly "V" around Mt. Lassen. On the south side are the outpourings of steam, water, and mud that show Lassen is active. On the north side lie the paths of a huge 1915 mud and rock flow, and miles of dacite boulders. There are also traces of an emigrant trail, which to the east passes a small cinder cone that may have been erupting as wagons rolled past in 1851.

At the reopened Loomis Museum (named for a photographer who documented the 1915 eruptions), I swapped California migration stories with a guide. Her family had arrived in the 1860s; mine got a toehold in 1849, following in greater numbers in the 1870s. Conversations like this are never only about the wonders of California; there is an undercurrent of our having been shaped by this glorious yet strange land, of the familial love and bond between California and ourselves.

Fetching flank

I took the scenic plateau back route to Shasta (Highway 89) instead of I-5, and was rewarded with a turnout and vista of Shasta's southern flank rising from the plain (about 11,000 feet differential – tallest in the world). A truck



Jane Philomen Cleland

Active Mt. Lassen, like our columnist, has regular outpourings.

master" stuff – attuning to discarnate masters and getting transformed into beings of light rather than flesh and blood. Free publications listing purveyors of "the ascension experience" are readily available. Interestingly enough, female sexuality is getting play as a way to, or hallmark of, the New Age. I didn't get details, beyond my surmise they mean gentle and flowing, but I'm not holding my breath that female-to-female sexuality is valued (unless there's a market for lesbian seekers).

Then there's the climbing. Ascending Shasta is not, alas, the intense but inspiring hike I envisioned. I lacked the walking-over-snow chops to make a serious go at the summit. The other women in my group – marathon runners – turned back also. Gathering winds kept any of us from the last



Sapphistication

I'd had plenty of intuitive indications that climbing Shasta would be a watershed growth event, and that the mountain herself had called me to do so.

with a camper pulled over also, and out stepped a grizzled sportsman type. After greetings, he told me he was born in Vallejo (my own hometown) before his family moved to Texas. He spoke happily of now having moved back, and said, "That mountain's something!" in a familiar awe-tinged voice.

Usually when I face Shasta, there's a major love feast vibe. I've even stripped naked for her. This time, however, I felt my climbing for enlightenment goal had us on more formal terms.

Two pursuits attract people to Mt. Shasta: New Age spirituality and climbing. The spirituality runs heavily to I AM/"ascended

run at the summit. The guides estimated I could come back and get to Lake Helen (10,500 feet) alone. Alas, I suspect going for the summit is too physically and technically intensive for splitting the difference and having a transformative experience in a major energy center through athleticism.

Intuitive indications

"Hiking meditation," of course, is my stock in trade and the point of this entire excursion. I'd had plenty of intuitive indications that climbing Shasta would be a watershed growth event, and that the mountain herself had called me to do so. The idea had struck me out of nowhere on an

other hike. Shortly after, in the space between waking and dream, I'd found myself floating over the mountain, looking at a topographical overlay that was a map of the mundane and transpersonal parts of my psyche. It hit me that my favorite dream at age three of "going to the north, going to the mountain" was likely a reminder to myself to do just that when I got it figured out.

But even had I a higher level of technical skill, the physical aspect of ascending Shasta would have been too intense for me to, like, "trip out" and get into my head. I couldn't have been completely off in my intuitions; I've had too many experiences on or around that mountain that did expand my awareness to have completely misread things. So what gives?

I sat in contemplation back in base camp at 8,000 feet, and realized there indeed had been a shift in self-awareness, insight into myself and my life. It was more subtle, and has been coming in a trickle instead of like a curtain suddenly lifting. I used to be really intense about the need to seek illumination, fearing misplacing insights in the daily blues. Now I know getting myself to and hiking about in places where I put myself in insight's path is just what I do. When that becomes so routine you hardly think about it, maybe you're there – and any positive effect your presence in the world has is all the justification you need for being here.

And is transcending being in a body more important than being in a body and doing cool stuff? If self-realization is a process of growing up spiritually, how come an adolescence never figures into anyone's scheme of things? What would a spiritual adolescent say when it dawns on her that she's a spiritual being incarnated in a body? Could it be something like, say, "Hey, why don't we take this baby out for a spin and see what she can do?" Parts of our psyches are lifetime-specific. Others are eternal and work quietly in the background. It takes both to make a happy critter, eh? Shasta gave me hints about relaxing and realizing my depth and history. ▀

Old lesbians to gather in Minnesota for conference

Many SF activists expected to attend

by Cynthia Laird

Lesbians age 60 and over are planning to gather in Minnesota next month for an Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) conference that will focus on age discrimination and homophobia, among other topics.

Organizers invite all older lesbians to attend the August 15-18 event at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The theme of this year's event is "Examining Our Lives, Confronting Our Challenges, Celebrating Our Strengths." It is expected to be the largest-ever gathering of old lesbians, according to event planners.

San Francisco lesbians Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, whose book *Lesbian/Woman* eased coming-out pains for countless women, are expected to contribute their unique perspective to relationship issues at the event. The couple celebrated their 43rd anniversary recently, and have published the 20th anniversary edition of their book.

Martin and Lyon were also delegates at last year's White House Conference on Aging, and plan to share information on that forum at next month's conference.

Another San Francisco resident, Sara Davis, 72, is also expected to attend the conference. Davis is a retired Navy officer, Peace Corps volunteer, and gold medal-winning competitive swimmer.

The gathering is also expected to attract other leading figures in the old lesbian community. Barbara McDonald will be the keynote speaker. Co-author of the acclaimed book *Look Me in the Eye*, McDonald is expected to set the tone for the conference with her commentary on ageism in the lesbian community and in the world.

Joan Catlow, of Florida, summed up the spirit of the gathering, saying, "We are leaping out of our closets and off our rocking chairs to challenge ageist stereotypes in society at large and in the gay and lesbian communities, and to confront homophobia everywhere."

Other old lesbians expected to attend the conference include Eu-nice Samuels, 69, an African-American lesbian activist and breast cancer survivor from Manhattan's East Village; Arden Eversmeyer, 64, and Charlotte Avery, 65, lifelong lesbians and OLOC volunteers from Houston, Texas; Vera Martin, 72, an African-American great-grandmother and national OLOC coordinator, from Apache Junction, Arizona; Kore Mountain, 63, a longtime activist in the areas of sexual abuse, battered women, and addictions, from Ottawa, Canada; and Annalee Stewart, 68, a retired professor of social work from the University of Minnesota, and a lifelong lesbian who raised an adopted son and who is now a grandmother.

Plenary sessions will be held on the subjects of "Our Community - What Unites Us and What Divides Us"; "Confronting Our Challenges"; "Living Our Lives"; and "Creating Change."



Golden oldies: The Old Lesbians Organizing Committee rode in style at a recent Gay Day Parade in San Francisco.

Conference planners, OLOC members, and local community groups are planning an all-ages, all-women's banquet and dance at a Minneapolis hotel on Friday, August 16, featuring entertainment by lesbians over 60. Additionally, old lesbians will celebrate their talents by having a display of arts and crafts available.

Organizers said the conference fee of \$175 (early registration) or \$200 includes registration, three nights lodging at the university dorm, and three meals daily, including the Friday night banquet. Organizers noted that scholarships and community housing are

available for economically disadvantaged women.

The conference will be wheelchair accessible and fragrance-free, and will have American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.

The conference is open to lesbians over 60, although their partners may be under 60 years of age. ▼

For brochure and registration form, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to OLOC, P.O. Box 980422, Houston TX 77098, or call (602) 983-6462 for more information.

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Gay activist heads Sunshine Task Force

by Cynthia Laird

African-American gay activist Byron McQuarters was unanimously elected chairperson of the city's Sunshine Ordinance Task Force at the board's June 19 meeting.

McQuarters is the only gay and only African-American member of the task force. The body is charged with monitoring adherence to the city's Sunshine Ordinance, the local version of California's Ralph M. Brown Act, the state's open government law.

McQuarters' term as chairperson is for 1996-97. There are 11 voting members, two non-voting members, and a deputy city attorney assigned to the task force.

The Sunshine Ordinance was approved by the board of supervisors in 1993 to add further openness to city government. It



Jane Philomen Cleland

Byron McQuarters

assures that meetings and deliberations of city boards and commissions are conducted in full view of the public.

"I feel like I have an enormous responsibility to ensure the Sunshine Ordinance is adhered to," McQuarters told the B.A.R. "I feel honored that they [task force members] put faith in me to lead them."

McQuarters, who at 30 is the second youngest member of the task force, was one of the original appointees to the body two years ago.

He said one of the things he would like to see is a workshop for city commissioners to educate them on regulations of the Sunshine Ordinance.

"Although I am the only openly gay and African-American on the task force, I was pleased none of those things played a part selecting me as chair," McQuarters said.

He added that he invites anyone in the community who feels "their rights are being trampled on while trying to access" govern-

ment documents or information to file a complaint with the task force.

McQuarters is a co-founder of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA), and is a former vice president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Democratic Club.

The Sunshine Ordinance was championed by former supervisor Roberta Achtenberg before she went to Washington D.C. to take a job with HUD, McQuarters noted. The ordinance was completed by Supervisor Kevin Shelley.

At its July 17 meeting, the task force will hold a hearing on a complaint concerning the city's refusal to release documents relating to the city's sale of the Viacom cable franchise to Telecommunications, Inc. (TCI). ▼

The task force meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at 1660 Mission Street, conference room 2001. To file a complaint, call (415) 554-6075.

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Pacific Center director to lead East Bay gay business group

by Cynthia Laird

Reverend Robert Fuentes, executive director of the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley, has been elected president of the East Bay Business and Professional Alliance and looks forward to bringing more exposure to the three-year-old gay chamber of commerce.

The Alliance is an organization of gay, lesbian, and bisexual business owners and professionals who are dedicated to supporting and building community, according to the group's statement of purpose. It has grown from 75 to 130 members since 1994.

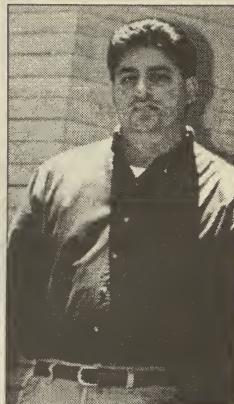
Other officers who were elected to one-year terms that began July 1 include Denise Petersen, vice president; Barbra MacNair, secretary; and Chaya Spector, treasurer. All have been active with the Alliance during the past year.

In an interview with the B.A.R., Fuentes said he hopes more business owners and professionals will join the Alliance.

"It's pretty large, considering how young the Alliance is," he said. "I look forward to seeing the Alliance continue to grow."

One of the reasons Fuentes sought the presidency of the group, he said, was that it was a way of "giving back to the organization."

"The Alliance has helped the Pacific Center a lot over the last year and a half," he said. "The Alliance has provided some fund raising, and some members have made sizable contributions to the Pacific Center, both in terms of



Rev. Robert Fuentes

This fall, the Alliance will again be participating in the Solano Stroll, a big street fair on Solano Avenue in Berkeley and Albany.

Another goal, Fuentes said, is to offer a more comprehensive package of services to Alliance members.

One way the Alliance might do that is to join the California Chamber of Commerce. Fuentes said he is exploring the possibility, and noted the East Bay business group would be the first openly gay business organization belonging to the state association. However, he is determining whether membership would benefit Alliance members.

The Alliance's big annual event last year was its business showcase, with which Fuentes was involved. The daylong business expo featured exhibits and information from about 50 Alliance members.

The Alliance has also been involved with other gay business groups, including the Lavender Pages directory in San Francisco and the Marin Business and Professional Association.

Fuentes has been executive director of the Pacific Center for about one year and has lived in the Bay Area for eight years. ▼

money and time."

The Alliance has members in virtually every occupation and profession. Some of those include accountants, attorneys, automotive services, bookstores, financial planning, health services, insurance, psychotherapy, and travel, to name just a few. And, members are from throughout the East Bay, including Alameda, Berkeley, Concord, Emeryville, Kensington, Lafayette, Pinole, and Oakland.

Fuentes hopes the Alliance can have more mixers and social gatherings during the coming year.

"Also hope to get the Alliance more involved with other community groups," Fuentes said.

The group did share space at last year's Festival at the Lake in Oakland with the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

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FTM issues discussed for the first time

by Vicki Kolakowski

More than 55 transgendered, and supportive non-transgendered, attorneys and activists from three continents gathered in Houston, Texas for the annual Transgen legal conference, sponsored by the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. (ICTLEP). This year's event was the largest and most diverse in the conference's five year history.

Over a half-dozen of the conference's attendees were from the Bay Area, including a number of the leaders of the Bay Area Trans-

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gender Law Association and Workshops (BATLAW), which gave a report at the conference on organizing local transgender legal organizations. BATLAW is the first and only such local transgender

people, such as insurance law, medical law, and international law, the conference for the first time held specific panel discussions on issues regarding female-to-male (FTM) transgendered people,

legal organization in the world.

In addition to the usual reports on the development of the law in subjects relevant to transgender

transgendered people of color, and non-transsexual members of the transgender community.

Shannon Minter, an FTM and a staff attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco, presented a moving report on legal issues regarding abusive psychiatric treatment of transgendered minors, as well as gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth, under the diagnosis of "Gender Identity Disorder." Minter also spoke on other issues related to healthcare for transgendered people.

for transgendered people.

Lesbian feminist law professors Mary Coombs of the University of Miami and Elvia Arriola of the University of Texas at Austin presented the opening and closing plenary speeches, respectively, focusing on issues regarding the connection between lesbian femi-

A black and white photograph of a young man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. He is seated at a desk, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In front of him is a vintage computer keyboard and a monitor displaying a graphical user interface. The background shows an office environment with shelves and papers.

NCLR's Shannon Minter: "I was very happy to see this vision being made real at the conference."

nist analysis of gender and that of transgendered theorists about sex and gender. Each argued that issues of gender, sex, and sexuality are connected, and should be addressed by lesbian feminists and transgendered people alike.

"Just as Adrienne Rich noted the compulsory nature of hetero-

sexuality," argued Coombs, "transgendered people have experienced the compulsory nature of gender. Those compulsory rules are intertwined, as dykes and effeminate men know, and all our communities — gay, lesbians, fem-

page 25 ▶

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Sing out, Louise! SF's 'Naked Man' goes to Tampa

by Rene M. Astudillo

This week, Tampa is hosting what local tourism officials consider to be one of the largest conventions ever to be held in this Florida city. The gathering, which opened with a Pride Parade in downtown Tampa last Sunday, July 7, is the Gay and Lesbian Association (GALA) of Choruses Festival V, which brings together as many as 6,000 singers from 90 choruses in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia. The festival, which happens once every four years, was last held in Denver, Colorado in 1992.

The festival means big business for Tampa. More than 20 percent of the city's 12,000 hotel rooms have been booked by festival organizers and participants. In addition to those involved in the festival, as many as 30,000 people are expected to watch the week-long, non-competitive concerts.

Tampa almost blew this big business and tourism opportunity when voters in 1992 repealed the city's ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation. The ballot measure prompted festival organizers to consider other locations that were more gay-friendly. However, when the courts found in October, 1993 that more than 400 signatures that put the measure on the ballot were not valid, the city reinstated the ban under its human rights ordinance. A similar ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in nearby Hillsborough County was repealed by county commissioners last May, forcing GALA V festival officials to cancel contracts with hotels in that county.

The musical performances are being held at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Among those represented in the festival are three Bay Area choruses: the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and the newly-formed Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus.

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, recognized as the "catalyst" for the organization of other gay and lesbian choruses around the world, is sending the biggest delegation to Tampa, to perform a new commissioned work titled *Naked Man*, by its composer-in-residence Robert Seeley, and lyricist Philip Littell. During the commissioned work's world premiere, held at Davies Symphony Hall last month, SFGMC Artistic Director Stan Hill told the audience that *Naked Man* is really about personal stories of chorus members, and a positive affirmation of gay life.

The chorus recently recorded the work, which will be available on CD and cassette starting this month. ▼

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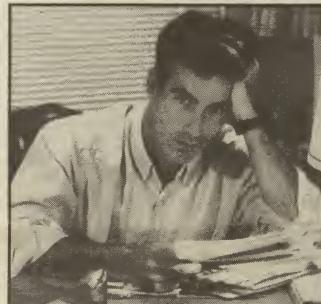
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Who gets Halloween this year? Who wants it?

by Dennis Conkin

Hundreds of thousands of Halloween revelers will be strutting their stuff in the Civic Center Plaza this year instead of the Castro, if a city permit group approves the location change sought by the event's organizers.

However, the North of Market Planning Coalition will oppose the permit, according to Richard Allman, the executive director of the powerful Tenderloin neighborhood watchdog group, unless the event is alcohol-free and shuts down at 11 p.m.

The annual event moved to the Castro in 1979 after almost a decade in the Polk Street area, because of increases in crime, traffic and parking difficulties, and other crowd control problems it created in the low-income residential neighborhood. Castro residents and merchants have expressed dissatisfaction with the event ever since.

"It's just outgrown the Castro, and we are preparing to take Halloween to its next level," said Lester Olmstead-Rose, executive director of Community United Against Violence, which produces the annual event.

But the Tenderloin is a residential neighborhood, too, Allman says, and many people living in the area will have their lives disrupted by the event.

"We understand exactly how Castro residents feel," Allman said. "We will do our best to work with CUAV, but we have two concerns. Alcohol should not be allowed or sold in Civic Center Plaza, and the event should close at 11 p.m. It's a weekday night."

Allman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that CUAV has not agreed to the demands.

In addition to the change in location, for the first time the event will charge a two-tiered admission fee — general admission will cost \$3 for those without a costume, and people wearing costumes will pay \$2.



Jane Philomen Cleland

Halloween headache: Castro residents don't look forward to October 31.

"That's what Halloween is about," Olmstead-Rose said. "It's about dressing up and coming out. We want people to come out and join the queer community and wear their queer souls on their sleeves for the night."

"It's going to be a real fun party."

Although organizers are not yet prepared to release the celebrity entertainment line-up, media consultant David Perry said it's top of the line.

"We'd really like to see it become an international event,"

Perry told the *B.A.R.* "We already have major corporate sponsorship in line."

Perry said the Civic Center is an "ideal site" for the annual CUAV fundraiser, and downplayed concerns over the site's proximity to the high-crime Tenderloin area.

"It's a big space and it's centrally located," he said.

Other locales considered and rejected for the annual party included the Embarcadero's Justin Herman Plaza and the Moscone Center in the South of Market area.

In addition to a paid security staff, plus volunteer safety monitors to assist with crowd control, the San Francisco Police Department will detail officers to the event.

The annual budget for Halloween '96 will top \$50,000, according to Olmstead-Rose, compared to last year's Castro Street event, which cost \$40,000 for music, security, and other production costs.

The event's relocation from the Castro to Civic Center was unofficially announced during the annual Freedom Day Parade, but will be more formally announced sometime this month, Perry said. ▀

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Gay vs. gay battle doesn't prevent Ethics Commission work

by Dennis Conkin

The San Francisco Ethics Commission approved Supervisor Tom Ammiano's proposed "Honest Election Ordinance" by a 5-0 vote Monday, July 8, and sent it to the board of supervisors for assignment to committee and eventual public hearings.

The measure was approved despite efforts by Jim Prevo, a staffer for gay political consultant Robert Barnes, to have openly gay Commissioner Paul Melbostadt disqualified from voting on the ordinance.

If passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the election reform measure could force political consultants to open their coffers to further public scrutiny, and will also ban them from lobbying current or former clients.

"I'm not going to comment on the matter," Prevo said.

Prevo filed a complaint before the Ethics Commission charging Melbostadt with violating commission rules by actively campaigning for Municipal Court candidate Ron Albers — against one of Barnes' clients.

"I personally witnessed him, on the weekend immediately preceding the election, standing on the median strip near Castro Street and 17th Street, holding an Albers campaign sign, shouting to passing motorists and pedestrians to vote for Albers," he said.

The complaint, filed June 18th, urged the commission to investigate Melbostadt and ban his participation in discussions of Ammiano's proposed ordinance.

Melbostadt acknowledged that he was campaigning — with Albers' parents at his side — and pointed out that commission rules do not prohibit him from involvement with candidates for state office.

"Ron Albers was not a candidate for city office, he was a candidate for state office," he said. "He's also not subject to the \$500 limit on contributions for city candidates, either."

Melbostadt also said Prevo has his own conflicts in raising the complaints. The attorney has raised the possibility of pursuing civil damages against Prevo for the alleged assault and battery of local gay man Ted Knapp at a recent Harvey Milk Democratic

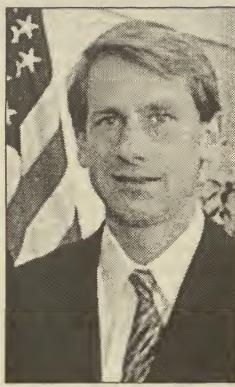
Club meeting. No police report was filed in that incident.

"I'm sure he's aware of that," Melbostadt told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Ted Knapp is a longtime client."

Prevo's complaint is now pending before the commission.

Melbostadt also denied accusations that he passed out Milk Club slate cards, which would have violated rules against involvement in local races. He told the *B.A.R.* he only referred to the cards to point out to passersby that Albers had been endorsed by the historic lesbian and gay political club.

"If anyone asked me about the other candidates or propositions, I told them to vote their conscience," Melbostadt said. ▼



Commissioner Paul Melbostadt

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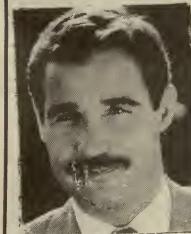
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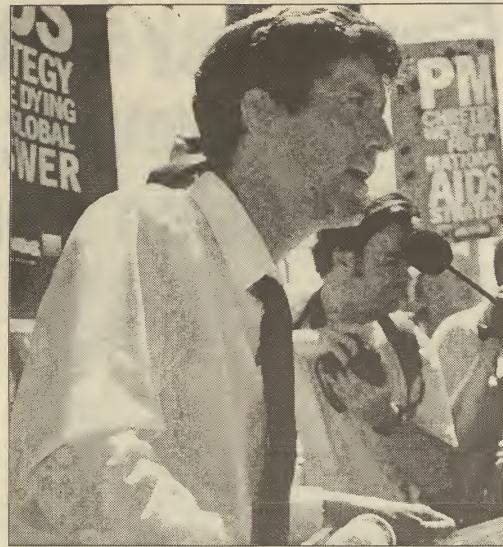
the conference, making him the first national leader who has failed to make an appearance at an international AIDS conference in his own country. Instead, Chrétien's government was represented by Minister of Health David Dingwall, causing Canadian activists to turn their backs and chant "Where's Chrétien?" throughout Dingwall's address.

British Columbia Premier Glen Clark officially opened the conference, and Nkosazana Zurma, South Africa's Minister of Health, presented the keynote address, which included greetings from President Nelson Mandela.

Time for audacity

The opening plenary focused on the organizer's message of hope and optimism, although many speakers emphasized that despite the promise of new drugs and treatment strategies, the AIDS crisis is far from over, especially in the developing world. Conference co-chair Michael Rekart stated that "glimmers of hope cannot allow us to become complacent."

Both officials and activists stressed the issue of access. Peter Piot, director of the United Nations Joint Program on AIDS, pointed out the growing "care gap" between rich and poor countries. He emphasized that "countries don't need to be rich to be successful, but they do need to put AIDS high on their political agenda."



"Shame on the government of Canada," declared openly gay Member of Parliament Svend Robinson at a pre-opening protest.

Sawyer stated that "the greed of AIDS profiteering is killing people with AIDS" and garnered much applause, in contrast to past conferences where activists often received a tepid reception. Sawyer criticized government officials "who think public health means isolating rich, often white populations from the disease of poor people by instituting immigration barriers, instead of providing healthcare to the sick." He suggested drug companies institute a

evident throughout the conference, with everything from delegate bags to the shuttle bus bearing a corporate name. ACT UP targeted drug companies throughout the conference, condemning prices that threaten to bankrupt public health systems worldwide, and demanding that companies either drop their prices or open their books.

On Monday, ACT UP presented a Golden Urn award – recognizing those whose policies and actions hasten the deaths of people with AIDS – to Abbott Laboratories for pricing its protease inhibitor ritonavir at \$30,000 per year. On Saturday, the American Medical Association was presented an urn for its recent endorsement of mandatory HIV testing of pregnant women. Tuesday's target was Serono, for pricing its human growth hormone at \$1,000 per week; Abbott recently instituted an annual price cap, after extensive pressure.

The year's conference instituted a new feature, a daily debate on a controversial AIDS-related issue. Monday's topic was drug prohibition, and Ernest Drucker of Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, went up against AnnBritt Grönwald, warden of Österåker prison in Sweden. While Grönwald presented some

**The U.S. was heavily criticized
for its continued opposition to
needle exchange programs.**

Regarding the recent G7 resolution on AIDS, Piot claimed, "We've heard words before. We must make sure that this time something comes out of it. ... Now is the time for audacity."

ACT UP/New York member Eric Sawyer took this as his cue, delivering a plenary address challenging the positive media spin surrounding recent treatment advances. He stressed that "we are no closer to a cure for the majority of people living with AIDS than we were ten years ago."

two-tiered pricing system, whereby those with more resources subsidize those with less.

Sawyer ended his speech with a chant of "greed kills – access for all." Proceedings came to a halt as activists took up the chant and unfurled banners, including one reading "Roche, Merck, Abbott: Greed = Death," addressed to the makers of the three protease inhibitor drugs currently on the market.

The magnitude of pharmaceutical company profits was amply

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evidence that strict drug laws work well in her country, Drucker, who favors re-examination of global drug prohibition policies, contended that the situation in most cities heavily affected by AIDS is "more like the Bronx than like Stockholm."

Needle exchange policy was also highlighted at the conference, with the U.S. coming in for heavy criticism for its continued opposition to needle exchange despite extensive evidence of its effectiveness.

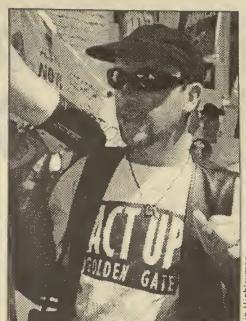
At a roundtable discussion on Tuesday, Peter Lurie of UCSF detailed the history of the U.S. government's stonewalling on needle exchange in the face of recommendations by the CDC and other organizations. Lurie estimated that if needle exchange had been widely implemented in 1987, some 10,000 HIV infections might have been prevented and half a million dollars saved.

New news is no news

The international AIDS conferences have become more a

forum for networking and less a primary forum for the announcement of scientific breakthroughs. Much of the "news" presented at the conference has been known for some time within the medical and treatment advocacy communities. Stories such as the recent discovery of HIV infection co-factors and mucosal immunity received more in-depth attention. In his plenary lecture on Monday, Scott Hammer of Harvard Medical School spoke on "Advances in Antiretroviral Therapy and Viral Load Monitoring," the two topics that could be called the overarching medical themes of the conference. The results of several new studies were presented, including long-awaited data from a study of combination protease inhibitor therapy that indicates that the combination may be effective in dramatically reducing HIV viral load over the course of time.

Many reports reinforced that triple combination therapy — using nucleoside analogs, protease inhibitors, and perhaps non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase in-



Liz Highleyman
ACT UP/GG's Bill Thorne at conference demo.

hibitors — is indeed now the state of the art. Yet as numerous studies showed, the problem of antiviral resistance remains a serious obstacle. Several researchers presented results at a session on Wednesday indicating that viral load can predict HIV disease progression and survival.

The scientific and medical progress over the course of the two years since the last international AIDS conference gives reason for some optimism, accounting for the more upbeat mood of this conference compared to the despair of the tenth conference in Yokohama in 1994. Yet as activists repeatedly emphasized, lack of access to promising new therapies, both in the developing world and among disenfranchised populations in the U.S., remains a major barrier, and one that demands continued attention. □

Sharp words, big promises in Vancouver

by Karen Klinger, UPI

US. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala said Tuesday, July 9 that the United States will boost funding for research on AIDS prevention, with special emphasis on women.

Shalala announced the increase at the 11th International Conference on AIDS, hours after actress Elizabeth Taylor criticized the United States and Canada for wavering support of AIDS research.

Taylor, founding co-chair of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), chastised the U.S. Congress for "unwillingness" to cede more political clout to the Office of AIDS Research at the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

She also blasted the federal ban on needle-exchange programs among intravenous drug users, who as a group have been hit hard by AIDS.

"In a society that proclaims to value human life above all, the deliberate withholding of the means to self-protection is more than passive neglect," the actress told cheering supporters.

"It is a measured act of premeditated murder."

Taylor and Shalala appeared to agree on the need to do much more to help women, who comprise 38 percent of new AIDS virus infections worldwide.

To accelerate research in the field, Shalala told conference-goers that the NIH and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta each will increase spending on microbicide research in fiscal 1997. Microbicides, which include common spermicides, are chemicals thought to have the potential to block entry into vaginal cells by HIV.

"The development of safe, effective topical microbicides will give women around the world the power to protect themselves against HIV without the fear of abuse or condemnation," she said.

Shalala did not mention what plans, if any, included research on microbicides for anal sex. Although it may seem any product that would effectively kill HIV vaginally would also work anally, that cannot be assumed to be true. □

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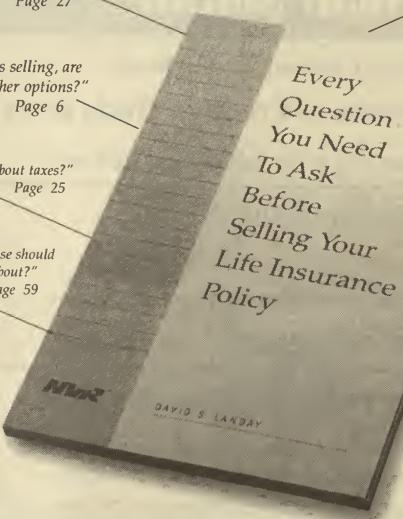
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Women and minorities are
encouraged to participate

by Bob Roehr

The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS appointed by President Clinton last year has given him a mixed report card on AIDS. The council's "Progress Report" combines recommendations it made last July and December; the administration's responses; and the council's "candid, independent evaluation of their responses."

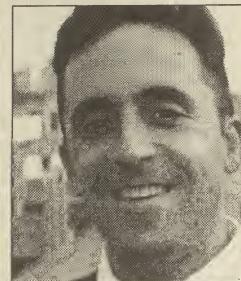
The report uses both the carrot and the stick, commanding Clinton for doing the easy things

to good works and to the work that has yet to be done."

He used the example of a prevention campaign for "willingness to discuss condoms, or for obliquely including gay men," saying, "It is progress, but it is so incremental."

"The national AIDS policy has been so timid for so long that the people who have been silenced for 12 years now believe that when they whisper they are shouting," he continued. "We have to not put people's morality ahead of public health."

Alexander Robinson sits on



Ben Schatz: "It is progress, but it is so incremental."

test," he said, but because "it would be going a long way towards our goal of ending the epidemic proportions of this disease."

"And that fact has not sunk in."

Judge for yourself

"I hope we can continue to be more aggressive in getting them [the administration] at the very least to acknowledge the facts about the research and the efficacy of the programs," Robinson said. "And then if they still make the political decision not to do the right thing, well, then people can judge that for themselves."

Schatz says the administration

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The Council found "greater courage and leadership are required" from the President.

— a meeting here, increased funding there — but not the hard ones. It praised Clinton for defending Medicaid and his role along with Congress in passing Ryan White reauthorization and increased funding for AIDS programs.

But it found him lacking in "politically charged aspects of prevention and discrimination where greater courage and leadership are required." It expressed "grave concern that much of the Federal HIV prevention strategy is underdeveloped, lacks focus, and is overly timid."

Ben Schatz, a member of the council and executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, described it as a "tension between giving recognition

to the council and works as an AIDS lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union. He pointed to the president's commitment to reduce new infections every year until there are none, and to the fact that more than half of all new HIV infections can be traced to injection drug use.

"We are not pushing syringe exchange programs because they are politically difficult, as a litmus

F or the first time since the introduction of the Reality condom, the federal government has expressed interest in exploring its use in preventing AIDS among gay men. The recent Presidential Advisory Commission on AIDS/HIV report states, "Studies should be funded to assess the potential safety and efficacy of anal usage of insertive condoms."

Reality, marketed as a "female condom," is a thin plastic pouch worn inside the rectum during anal sex. The manufacturer discontinued tests with gay couples during the Bush administration, when the FDA raised the issue of marketing it for sodomy, which is still illegal in several states.

Last month the Christian Coalition publicly went on record with its opposition to "anal condoms" in an Associated Press wire story. Since then, however, conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh has chastised the group for taking the stand at the expense of public health.

Reality condoms, and instructions, are free for the asking at San Francisco Public Health Department Clinics. For more information, call the AIDS office at (415) 554-9000. Also, according to *Mademoiselle* magazine, a free sample of Reality is available from the manufacturer, by calling (800) 274-6601. ▶

Prez Commission looks at gay men's butts

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HIV council moves to close \$6M CARE gap without service cuts

by Cynthia Laird

Anticipating cuts of as much as \$6.4 million in this year's federal CARE budget, members of the HIV Health Services Planning Council voted Monday, July 8 to take steps to close that gap without cutting services or programs this year.

Dr. Gene Copello, chief of health and prevention services for the AIDS office in the Department of Public Health, presented a memo to the planning council on this year's CARE budget, which is composed of formula and supplemental funds.

The planning council allocates and prioritizes funding for programs receiving federal Title I funding through the Ryan White CARE Act and Title II state funds.

The new funding formula is not as favorable to older eligible metropolitan areas such as SF.

This year, Copello said, San Francisco received a significantly smaller supplemental award than was estimated. Although the reasons are complicated, Copello explained that the city's old award was based on the old formula.

When Congress recently passed the new CARE bill, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) re-computed awards for all eligible metropolitan areas (EMAs), including San Francisco. The new formula favors EMAs with more recent epidemics; therefore, their formula awards increased. Additionally, several new EMAs were added, further depleting the funds in the supplemental pool, Copello explained.

Copello said that the new funding formula was "not as favorable" to older EMAs, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York.

San Francisco's new award is just over \$35 million, resulting in the \$6.4 million shortfall.

"The gap is the difference between how much money we received from CARE and how much money it would cost us to maintain all current CARE services at

level funding," Copello's memo stated.

However, the planning council approved a modified Scenario 1 in order to close the shortfall. This is being accomplished in several ways, Copello explained.

Mind the gap

The additions to Scenario 1 include having San Mateo and Marin counties absorb their portion of the gap, which is \$413,272 and \$264,622 respectively. Both counties and San Francisco make up the EMA served by the planning council. Also, whatever portion of the two-month savings that is not used this year can be used to minimize the impact of next year's cut.

Additionally, the city of San Francisco has committed \$1.5 million through the health de-

partment, Copello said.

Other factors that will close the gap include \$500,000 in rollover funds, \$750,000 in unspent funds, and \$2.9 million in saved formula dollars.

Copello's memo to the planning council stated that unspent money occurred when a community-based organization (CBO) or the health department was allocated CARE funds but was unable to spend them because of staff vacancies or there were fewer clients than expected.

Two months of formula award money were not spent because there was enough supplemental funds last year to carry through to the end of March, Copello explained, resulting in the \$2.9 million savings.

"There are no cuts this year," Copello said.

However, the picture doesn't look as good for next year, when Copello estimates San Francisco will receive only \$33 million.

"This means a real cut of \$4,542,197 of program dollars. There will be no unspent or rollover dollars next year, because we will be spending every penny

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Presented by

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DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH
SF GENERAL HOSPITAL

Jay Levy, MD

AIDS RESEARCHER,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Susan Buchbinder, MD

CHIEF, RESEARCH BRANCH, AIDS OFFICE,
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Martin Delaney

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PROJECT INFORM

Ronald Baker, PhD

DIRECTOR, TREATMENT EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY
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Marcus A. Conant, MD

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Old drug gets new use... and big new price-tag

by Stephen LeBlanc and Rob Sabados, ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers Pool

More and more People with AIDS are beginning to realize what some activists and more aggressive HIV-doctors have been saying for years: AIDS-associated wasting is not an irreversible consequence of AIDS, but is an AIDS-associated condition that can be effectively treated.

People who are wasting can, with appropriate treatment, regain and maintain their normal weight and have a good quality of life, possibly indefinitely. Yet even in

HIV-affected communities where aggressive prophylaxis for OIs like PCP, MAC, or fungus are common, wasting is a leading cause of death to people with AIDS, and it's becoming clear that many of these deaths are preventable.

One effective treatment for HIV-related wasting, oxandrolone, has been available by prescription for over 30 years. It potentially could have prevented countless deaths from HIV-associated wasting. However, it is rarely used for people with AIDS and has not yet been thoroughly studied in that population. Oxandrolone has been found to be reasonably safe and effective for chil-

dren and for people with alcohol-related liver-disease. The drug is taken orally and has few significant side effects at dosages effective against severe chronic wasting. It is extremely cheap to manufacture; however, its manufacturer has chosen to artificially and exploitative inflate the price of oxandrolone. Oxandrolone has been extensively studied in children with growth disorders and adult men with alcoholic hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that is often accompanied by wasting. It has been shown very safe and effective for treating alcoholic hepatitis-related wasting, and it is believed that the metabolic problems associated with this condition are similar to those found in HIV-wasting.

Doctors' reluctance to prescribe oxandrolone, and PWAs' unawareness of it arise from a number of reasons that have nothing to do with good quality healthcare. One important reason is that oxandrolone is in a class of drugs known as anabolic steroids. These drugs are sometimes used by athletes to enhance strength or performance and over the past several decades have been unfairly demonized. In fact, oxandrolone at therapeutic dosages is a proven safe and effective drug

ACTION UPdate

Yolk the Ox

BTG is planning further studies of Oxandrolone to determine what doses most effectively treat HIV-wasting disorder. ACT UP/Golden Gate has successfully urged BTG to include women, hemophiliacs, and people on protease inhibitors in these studies. We continue to demand that BioTechnology General include detailed immunological monitoring of study participants.

The BTG press release also helpfully listed company contacts, should people with AIDS wish to express their opinion of BTG's price and marketing strategy directly. Call Bio-Technology General Corp.'s Director of Sales Operations Peggy Ference at (505) 822-8820 or her voice-mail at (800) 284-2480, extension 508, Leah Berkovits at (908) 632-8800 or their investor relations representative Don Weinberger at (516) 829-7111. ▼

for treating wasting and is not commonly associated with the dangerous side effects of other steroids, though those warnings are required to appear on the label.

Typical of many doctors was the attitude Dr. Duane Goldberg reported in the spring 1996 issue of UC-Fresno's *Inline Magazine*. Dr. Goldberg prescribed oxandrolone under the brand name Anavar for a patient who had been diagnosed with AIDS for two years and had wasted from an athletic 6' 2" 210 pounds to 150 pounds.

"To tell you the truth," Goldberg said, "I really didn't want to prescribe the Anavar as I wasn't sure what would happen. The literature I had read was brand new, only tried on a few patients back east. But I had to do something."

Goldberg's patient was a man similar to many PWAs who enter a

wasting state and often give up hope and die without ever receiving effective anti-wasting treatment. "I was dying fast. I didn't want to eat, and I was extremely weak," he reports. "Now, I'm back up to 190 pounds, and my immune system is healthy. I have no doubt that this is because of Anavar."

Pros and cons

Unlike other anabolic steroids, such as testosterone, oxandrolone is minimally metabolized by the liver, thereby avoiding most drug interactions and the liver toxicity often seen with other steroids. Even people whose livers were badly damaged by alcohol, and therefore were unable to take many drugs, did well on oxandrolone.

Oxandrolone has been approved by the FDA since the early 1960's at a dosage of five to ten milligrams per day for conditions that included weight loss "due to extensive surgery, chronic infection, severe trauma, failure to gain

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COMMENTARY

New nukes

by Michael C. Botkin

NAIROBI, Kenya (UP) July 2006: The 15th International Conference on AIDS. Doctors at the conference today announced that the new 17-drug combination is "virtually a cure" for AIDS. "We've thrown so many antivirals at the poor bug that it simply can't reproduce," one prominent researcher gloated. Although some nay-sayers claim that the virus will eventually mutate into a resistant form, as happened with the 16- and 15- etc. combos, others remain confident that "we've got it this time."

Back to reality: It's nice that there are so many antivirals to mix-and-match these days. It's a pity that the Pollyanna-good-news types try to hype this into being either a "cure" or something that makes the disease "chronic and manageable." At least one doctor, speaking of the Vancouver conference, said there would be much good news but also "many exaggerated reports." This last, I believe, is a safe prediction.

There are even some new nucleoside analogs in the pipeline that, in early trials, appear to be much more potent than the current ones. Of course, early trials can be misleading, particularly in regards how fast resistance develops. An antiviral 100 times stronger than AZT would be of little use if the virus developed resistance to it in a few weeks.

Furthermore, the emergence of more nukes tends to confirm the trend for the AIDS industry to be the nucleoside analog industry. I don't believe that this is the most promising approach, just the guaranteed profitable approach. The industry knows how to make money off nuke development, they know they have a captive market, and they even know approximately how much they can charge for their new drugs – without having to reference how much it actually costs them to manufacture them.

As a low T-cell HIVer, I'm more interested in the other half of the equation, immune restoration, but that isn't profitable yet, so I'll have to wait. I hope those new nukes buy me enough time.

PETA math

At first I thought that ACT

UP/Golden Gate was going a bit overboard when they flew east to disrupt the PETA convention. It's true PETA proved themselves egregious assholes around Jeff Getty's baboon bone marrow transplant, but was it really worth going after the bunny-huggers big time?

It was the PETA math that convinced me. Animal rights activists "liberated" 1,200 rats from a Texas lab, rats being used in research on cryptosporidium.

About a year later, there was an outbreak of crypto in the Milwaukee area that killed over 100 PWAs (including nearly the entire ACT UP chapter) and made almost 400,000 people sick. Activists claim that the sabotaged research could have saved those lives.

If that is the case, then PETA assigns a value of a dozen rats per every PWA. Even assuming the rats are very large, I find this offensive.

I put the question to a PETA-supportive friend, and he denied the 12-1 ratio. "As far as I'm concerned," he said, "it's one rat equals one PWA – or any person. All life is sacred, and you have no more right to life than a rat."

Such people, I've decided, deserve to be zapped. It's also irritating how, when pinned down, they outright lie, claiming that animal studies are inaccurate, etc. The facts don't support them, and as a result, they're reduced to emotional appeals – look at those cute bunnies! They should limit their activities to fairly harmless arenas, like fighting the fur industry, and leave those of us who are fighting for our very lives alone.

Presbyterian guts

The Presbyterians have just concluded their annual convention, and like many other denominations grappled with the issue of ordaining gay ministers. After much wrangling, they allowed the smallest possible breach in the wall: gays are ordainable providing they're celibate. This is in line with the general rule that unmarried heterosexual ministers must also be celibate. It does, however, overlook that a heterosexual min-

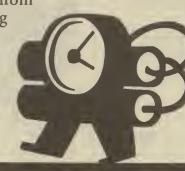
ister can get married, and thus be allowed legitimate sex, while a homosexual cannot.

This ruling is somewhat mitigated by the apparent lack of interest in witch-hunting out gay ministers. It's understood that some parishes will want their queer ministers and they'll be allowed to keep them; the ministers will just have to be quiet about their sex lives and be willing to live "in sin" if they ever want to have sex.

This spirit of easygoing compromise was confirmed by the election of the new head of the church.

Passing by both the raving homophobe who was against allowing even celibate queers and the gay candidate who favored unqualified ordination, the church elected a moderate, who favors leaving the decision to the local parishes. This, of course, amounts to abstaining on the whole issue, but that's probably the best one can hope for from religious types.

Of course, this easygoing decision allows the church to dodge the essential issue of human rights. It's a moral abdication. They take a token stand against gay ordination but wink at its violation, a typical Christian trick of allowing sin provided you acknowledge that it is a sin. It's little mind games like these that have always turned me, and other s, off from organized religion. ▼



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If you would be interested in participating in this study, please contact Mark Jurek at 1-800-818-8873. All replies are anonymous and upon calling, you will only be asked to specify your age and your race.

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William Owen, Jr., M.D.

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Liz Harmon-San Diego Business Journal, April, 1994

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Phil Donahue-The Donahue Show, December, 1992

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William Hoffman-Small Business News, April, 1994

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OBITUARIES

Chuck Adkins

Dec. 20, 1957 – July 4, 1996



When he became emperor in February 1994, some felt that this quiet, refined, gentle man would not be assertive enough. However, it soon became apparent that this emperor had an inner

strength and reserve not only to make known what he desired but also the ability to get it done.

We are referring to Chuck Adkins, Emperor XXII, A.N., who died on July 4 at Ralph K. Davies Medical Center from AIDS complications.

Chuck is survived by Ron Schriock, his lover of over 10 years; his wife of state, Empress XXIX Anita Martini; and his daughter, Amanda of El Paso, Texas.

Chuck was co-owner of Urban Cellars Wine Shop at 5821 24th Street, and he worked part-time at the Polk Gulch Saloon. He was dedicated to charity and participated in many fundraisers for our various AIDS projects. His favorite was B.E.A.R., of which he was an active member for many years.

A celebration of Chuck's life will be held at the Polk Gulch Saloon on Wednesday, July 17, at 8 p.m. Donations in his memory are requested for the AIDS charity of your choice.

Howard J. (Hal) Campbell

March 19, 1920 – June 12, 1996

Hal died at his home in San Francisco on June 12 of lung cancer. He had the support of his loving family and friends during his illness. He was preceded in death by his partner of 17 years, Floyd M. Carter, in 1995.

Hal was born in Denver, Colo., and raised in Texas. After service in the Navy



in World War II, he earned his master's in drama at Stanford University. He headed the Drama Department at Fresno State College for several years before returning to the Bay Area to obtain his doctorate in education at U.C. Berkeley in 1959. He returned to Fresno State College in the Speech Department, which he retired from in 1977.

Hal is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Kurt of Alexandria, Va., and Craig of Fresno; a granddaughter, Rebecca; and by many loving friends in Fresno and the Bay Area.

A memorial is being planned. For details, call Jim Nolte at 510/552-4307.

Michael D. Hoover

April 30, 1952 – June 22, 1996

On Saturday, June 22, in celebration of the summer solstice, dear "Mr. Hoo" went to dance with God. He was a legal secretary of many years. He loved cars, especially Camaros and Corvettes, and of course, his ever-present Marlboro cigarette. His real passion in life was R&B music with the quest for the perfect sound through "hi-fi" audio technology ("tube amps rule"). His keen view on life and unique sense of humor will be sorely missed.

Michael leaves behind his loving mother, Dorothy M. Hoover, and sex aunt, Eleanor Jones, both of Portland, Ore.; his friends, Rusty, Mark, Suzanne and Rachelle; and his special little friend, Todd the cat. A personal thanks to those at Coming Home Hospice for all the warmth and love shared with Michael. A private memorial will be held. Donations to the charity of your choice.

Douglas Wayne Mook

Nov. 16, 1951 – June 6, 1996

Douglas was born in Lancaster, Wisc. He died at home in San Francisco. He passed to the other side with his dignity totally intact. He never lost his dignity because he never spent a day in the hospital during his illness. He died in his own bed with his loving partner of 1-1/2 years, Hiram Pebbles, present. Sick as he was at the end, Douglas was more concerned about Hiram's precipitous health situation. It was a privilege for Hiram to experience Douglas' transition with him.

Douglas attended college at Northwestern University. He lived in Chicago and moved to California in 1982.

"Doug" was preceded in death by his loving partner, Rick Raby. He is survived by his dear sister, Lois K. Eggers of Janesville, Wisc.; her daughters, Jennifer

and Michelle; his Aunt Jo and Uncle Blackie Flesch; his Aunt Annabelle and Uncle Raymond Bruton; his cousin, Timothy Flesch; his cousin, Catherine McCoy; her husband, Richard; their children, Emily and Elizabeth; his cousin, Michael Flesch; his cousin, Edward Flesch; and Edward's wife, Jeanne.

Doug's generosity and stubbornness will be remembered with affection by his friends, Lesley Gallagher, Vera Pack and Gary Pack.

Bruce Mark Nielsen

July 13, 1960 – June 14, 1996



Bruce stepped hesitatingly over the threshold into the next life at 2:45 p.m. on June 14. He's now with his many friends who went before, especially Sparky, his best and dearest friend. He was hastened in his journey by AIDS/MAI.

Born and raised in Kearns, Utah, Bruce followed his dreams and his lover in 1984 to explore Guerneville and the Russian River. Most recently, you would have seen him with his self-conscious gap-toothed grin in the company of his "partner in crime" and best friend, Lou. Together they cleaned the Hideout and the Rainbow Cattle Co. in Guerneville. Or maybe you saw him at Wohler Bridge with the true loves of his life, Bop and Rocky, two dogs of questionable pedigree but loved all the more for it.

At his side when he left were his loving parents, Val and Dora Nielsen of Salt Lake City, and his longtime dear friend, Patrick.

There will be a celebration of Bruce's life on Saturday, July 13, at 10 a.m. at the Rainbow Cattle Co. in Guerneville. Donations may be made to Food for Thought, the Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank.

Gary Dean Stainback

June 26, 1950 – June 12, 1996



Gary died Wednesday, June 12, at the Coming Home Hospice at 9:05 p.m. His death followed a long and courageous struggle with AIDS. His mother and sister were with him at the time of his death, and he died peacefully.

Gary was an honest, gentle and generous man with a perverse sense of humor. He was born in Coronado, Calif., and lived in the San Diego area until 1971. He moved to San Francisco in 1971 and lived there until the time of his death.

Gary performed independent carpentry and interior design until 1988, at which time he became a parking control officer for the city of San Francisco. He

took great pride in his work, and always performed his job honestly and creatively.

Gary enjoyed dining out, hunting for hidden treasures, and spending time at his 9th Street apartment.

Gary is survived by his loving mother, Alta; father, Dru; sister, Stephanie; brother, Blake; aunt, Boo; uncle, Wayne; and former partners, Bobby Blades and Robert Mabry. No memorial service was held, but a candle lit in Gary's memory and a positive thought for him would be appreciated. He is in a better world now.

We miss you, Gary.

**Victor Victor
(Stephen Victor Curtis)**

Jan. 4, 1958 – June 29, 1996



Singer, songwriter, musician Victor Victor died from AIDS-related causes on June 29. He began life as Stephen Victor Curtis in N.Y.C., and lived in San Francisco in the early '80s and from 1992 to 1996. He performed his own music on Long Island, in Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Key West and Branson, Mo.

Victor is survived by the many friends he helped with his presence and his gifts; his twin sister, Pattee Pizzurro; his husband, Domenic; nephew, Ryan Victor (born on 2/29/96); and his father, Robert Curtis, all of Rockville Center, N.Y.

A celebration of Victor's life will be held on August 3 at 3 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church/SF, 150 Eureka Street. Donations in Victor's memory may be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund, the NAMES Project, the Godfather Service Fund and the Metropolitan Community Church.

We will miss the laughter, music and truth that Victor brought to the many programs he blessed with his participation. He died as he came to live: clean and sober, gay and proud.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number.

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AIDS Council

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has made a political calculation that the gay community can be won over through an increase of treatment and care funding. That allows them to say, "Well, we are not going to push on needle exchange and other issues that are probably not in the heart of hearts of most gay men."

The council did not address the issue of leadership from the Surgeon General. The position has traditionally been the federal "bully pulpit" on AIDS, beginning with C. Everett Koop under Reagan and continuing with Joycelyn Elders. President Clinton fired her in December 1994 for speaking of masturbation in the context of sex education. The position remains vacant.

Robinson admitted the council made a political decision not to press on this issue, in part because they expected the president, vice president, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala to speak up. But, he acknowledged, that has not occurred, and there has not been that "visible, public speaking out kind of leadership."

"There has," he said, "been a void."

In light of its contents, it is perhaps not surprising that the report, dated June 7, was not released until July 1 by the Office of AIDS Policy – and then only after repeated inquiries by this reporter. No news release accompanied the report, which came during a holiday-shortened work week when journalists are scarce. A cynical observer also suggested that the release was delayed until after the major gay pride celebrations had concluded.

Both Schatz and Robinson did not deny the possibility of spin control by the administration in the way it released the report. But they were more inclined to attribute at least some of the delay to the virtual non-funding of the education. The position remains vacant.

As Robinson put it, "Everything that we did, including editing the document – is there a dangling participle, a comma in the right place – is done by the volunteer members of the council."

Schatz says the council raised the issue of staffing with White House domestic policy advisor Carol Rasco.

"She said, 'Thank you for your input.'" ▼

HIV Council

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this year to close the gap," Copello stated.

In other matters Monday, the planning council:

- Elected members Laura Thomas and Danny Joe as co-chairs. Thomas is currently co-chair, and Joe replaces Steve Lew, who decided not to seek re-election. Norm Nickens from the city's AIDS Office serves as the other co-chair.

- Okayed a recommendation from the membership subcommittee on having members make telephone calls to council applicants. The calls would inform applicants of the duties and responsibilities of serving on the council. There are seven candidates to fill two slots on the council. The subcommittee recommended that an additional vacant slot be filled after the council determines where gaps are in the body's composition. Members must be approved by the mayor after being recommended by the council.

It is expected that the new members will be on board by the council's August meetings. ▼

HEALTH NEWS

ADAP program gets additional \$1.5 mil

by Cynthia Laird

The state's Budget Conference Committee has budgeted an additional \$1.5 million to the California AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), according to Assemblywoman Carole Migden of San Francisco. The latest action, combined with previously approved funding increases for the next fiscal year, raises the ADAP budget from the current level of \$17.5 million to \$36.9 million in combined federal and state money.

Since taking office in March,

Migden has made additional funding for ADAP a top priority. On April 23 she requested an augmentation to ensure that newly approved drugs are properly funded.

ADAP has become one of the most successful and popular AIDS programs in the country, with a 40 percent increase in the number of clients over the last three years. The State Office of AIDS estimates that approximately 12,800 clients fill some 100,000 prescriptions each year.

"There have been numerous new drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration [FDA]

since the governor's original budget request," Migden stated. "This additional money will ensure that the AIDS Drug Assistance Program will be able to pay for any new potentially life-saving drugs that are approved before the end of the year."

Migden is a member of the assembly budget committee and one of its subcommittees. According to an aide, State Senator Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena) helped to work out the funding request as a member of the conference committee.

"I commend Senator Thompson for his diligence in moving

this augmentation forward, which will provide the drugs to keep thousands of people with HIV/AIDS living longer, more productive lives," Migden said.

Much of the additional ADAP funding will be used to pay for the nucleoside analogue 3TC and three new protease inhibitors that were added to the formulary this year. These drugs have shown great success in virtually eliminating the virus from people's systems when used in certain combination therapies. ▼



Carole Migden.

Transgender

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transgendered people – have a common struggle to free ourselves from these compulsions."

Even the conference's social events had a political edge. The conference's annual dinner recognized British law professor Stephen Whittle, an FTM attorney and activist, as well as transgender lobbyists Sarah DePalma of Texas and Jessica Xavier of Maryland, who head local affiliates of the national transgender political group It's Time America! In addition to the annual dinner, a ritual declaring a Declaration of Gender Liberty was held on July 4th during Houston's annual fireworks display.

"This year's conference was an outstanding success," exclaimed Texas attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye, founder and executive director of ICTLEP. "Our workshops on the concerns and needs of people of color and TS men [FTM] in the transgender community resulted in unprecedented participation in numbers and content by people of color and men."

"I certainly also learned things I didn't know before, especially about the legal needs of the non-transsexuals, that is the heterosex-

ual crossdressers and the gay drag, even though I've been providing advocacy or legal services and education in the transgender community for over two decades."

Minter echoed Frye's enthusiasm, advocating a vision of solidarity of the diverse communities both inside and outside of the transgender community by moving toward full inclusion within the transgender community. "I was very happy to see this vision being made real at the conference through the inclusion of voices that are often silenced and ignored – voices of FTMs, people of color, and tg youth," she told the Bay Area Reporter.

Not all those responding to the attempts at inclusion were as positive as Minter. "It's depressing to think that after five years of transgender community activism, this three hour session is the first block of time Transgen has devoted to FTM issues," said panelist Jamison Green, president of Oakland-based FTM International.

"Even sadder is the fact that we could barely scratch the surface of topics pertaining to law – we had to spend the majority of the time explaining the basic reality of FTM existence, so ignorant were the majority of attendees," Green told the B.A.R.

Similar frustrations were expressed by several of the people of color attendees who spoke with the Bay Area Reporter. Nevertheless, most attendees viewed the workshops as a positive first step for a community that has historically ignored its need for addressing its broad diversity.

Green in particular acknowledged that the conference meets a vital need in the international transgender community for sharing information and resources. ICTLEP publishes and markets extensive records of the conference's annual meetings as Proceedings, which are recognized as the most comprehensive collection of resources on legal issues related to the transgender community. ▼

Vicky Kolakowski is chair of BATLAW.

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ACT UP

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or maintain weight without definite pathophysiologic reasons [and] protein catabolism due to prolonged corticosteroid administration." Since HIV wasting is the result of a chronic infection and is often without definite cause, oxandrolone is clearly indicated and FDA approved for HIV-related wasting at the dose of 5-10 mg per day.

However, based upon studies in alcoholic hepatitis patients and more limited studies in people with AIDS, many researchers and activists believe that the effective dose of oxandrolone may be much higher than the FDA indicated dose, 40 to 80 mg per day. Although the approved dose is only ten mg per day, many physicians have prescribed higher, "off-label" doses of oxandrolone. At the present time, insurance companies are in general covering the cost of oxandrolone, but some have reportedly balked at paying for the full effective dose because it is not "FDA approved." This, however, is something of a misuse of an FDA approval. While many insurance policies have exclusion clauses for "experimental" treatments, using a drug that has been approved and shown effective for its intended purpose cannot fairly be characterized as experimental.

Like all anabolic steroids, oxandrolone is a Schedule III controlled substance, which discourages some physicians from prescribing it, especially at dosages higher than the norm. As a result, a patient may need to persuade their doctor to prescribe it.

Some research in children suggests that oxandrolone increases the efficacy of human growth hormone, which is also being studied as a treatment for wasting. By combining oxandrolone with growth hormone, it may be possible to reduce the amount of growth hormone needed. Since growth hormone currently costs about \$50,000 per year, a price that may double if growth hormone is approved, a growth hormone/oxandrolone combination may provide the same benefits at combating wasting with significant cost savings.

Same-sex bill

◀ page 1

of Governor Pete Wilson, who supports the measure, but has vetoed domestic partnership legislation.

The same, but different?

At the outset of the hearing, lawmakers were advised by a non-partisan legal scholar that enactment of the bill could lead to a legal challenge based on the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Stanford University Law Professor Kathleen Sullivan said the Supreme Court in May tossed out a Colorado law that singled out homosexuals in violation of the clause. California's proposed marriage protection law might also be thrown out for the same reason, she said.

Sullivan said California historically has recognized marriages performed in other states that would have been illegal within its own borders, including those involving mixed races, bigamy, and underage partners. But Knight's bill would single out homosexuals, she said.

"The key is if public policy is a general one that doesn't violate

The current cost of oxandrolone is another factor that deserves the attention of people with AIDS. The drug has been on the market long enough for all patents on it to expire, and therefore it should be available as a generic. Until recently, the drug was sold and manufactured by Searle Laboratories under the trade name Anavar, and by SPA Labs in Europe under the names Lipidex, Antitriol, or Lonavar. The drug was favored by bodybuilders for its low toxicity and few side effects.

The drug was discontinued by Searle Laboratories in 1989, apparently in part because of bad publicity due to its illegal use by bodybuilders, and was picked up by New Jersey-based Bio-Technology General Corp. In a press release dated December 5, 1995, Bio-Technology General Corp. announced "its first major U.S. drug launch: Oxandrin® oxandrolone." The press release did not mention oxadralone's thirty year history as a treatment for wasting. It did state, however, that "The recommended adult dose of Oxandrin is 2.5 mg to 20 mg per day. At an average wholesale price of \$3.75 per 2.5 mg tablet, Oxandrin is a cost-effective therapy for involuntary weight loss. As with all anabolic agents, Oxandrin is classified as a Schedule III controlled substance and has been assigned a classic black box warning relating to liver and coronary artery disease."

BTG's press release also explained that "AIDS wasting indications have been granted Orphan Drug designation by the FDA. This designation is granted to drugs for rare diseases or conditions with a prevalence of less than 200,000 cases in the United States and provides the manufacturer with seven years of market exclusivity post approval."

At first look, this seems a grotesque misuse of the Orphan Drug designation to make a formally inexpensively available generic drug *more than ten times more expensive*. People with AIDS need to carefully examine this use of the Orphan Drug Act to give a company *exclusive marketing rights* (and therefore a monopoly) for a drug that has been available to treat wasting for more than 30 years. ▼

equal protection law," she said. "The problem is when you pick out one group."

On the other hand, Sullivan said if California is compelled to recognize same-sex marriage, it wouldn't necessarily have to extend the same rights and privileges that benefit heterosexual married couples.

She said the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution would require California to recognize the Hawaii marriage, but allow limits based on public policy.

"California has to respect the Hawaii court judgment that Bill and Steve are married, but it does not follow that Bill and Steve get tax credits and other benefits given heterosexual couples," she said.

Assemblywoman Carole Migden of San Francisco testified at the Senate Judicial Committee, and pointed out that marriage provides both social and economic benefits, promotes stability, and confers some 160 tangible legal benefits to couples. These benefits include inheritance rights, Social Security benefits, adoption and custody rights, immigration and residency privileges, and medical decision-making rights.

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The following person(s) are doing business as THE VENDOR MENDOR, 10 Cumberland St., San Francisco, CA 94110: Thomas R. Thompson, 10 Cumberland St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Thomas R. Thompson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 20, 1996. June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 205552

The following person(s) are doing business as L. PENNZOIL 10 MINUTE OIL CHANGE, 2 QUICK LUBE OF SAN RAFAEL AND SANTA ROSA, 134 Paul Dr. #101, San Rafael, CA 94903; William R. Nelson, 111 Lagunitas Road, Ross, CA 94957. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of October, 1987. This business is conducted by an limited partnership. Signed William R. Nelson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 19, 1996. June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 1996.

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Michael Kearns returns to the Bay Area with a new play and the ten-year anniversary production of *Jerker*.

page 36

Author Brad Gooch discusses The Golden Age of Promiscuity.

page 37



Actress Stella Stevens is more than just a pretty face. See *Out There*.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 28 • 11 July 1996

Underexposure

When underwear becomes outerwear

by Daniel Harris

Bandanna-print
boxers by Sauvage.



In December of 1992, an arresting image of rap singer Marky Mark, the brawny yet petite *Playgirl* pinup featured in Calvin Klein underwear ads, appeared on bus stops across the country. Wearing only a pair of lycra boxer shorts that hugged his muscular thighs and bulged provocatively at the crotch, he stood laughing directly out at us, tangled up in his baggy pants, which had collapsed around his ankles as if someone had just yanked them down from the preposterously low-slung position in which he customarily wears them.

Although images of men in underwear have appeared in bus stop advertisements before (albeit in a somewhat neutered state, the faint imprint of their genitalia having been carefully airbrushed away to create a sexless, antiseptic look), the photograph of Marky Mark was in some sense unprecedented.

Its impact stemmed not from its partial nudity, but from the way in which it emphatically represented an act of undressing, an exposure, a staged incident of de-pantsing in which the viewer was forced to confront underwear in a context that dramatized its forbidden intimacy. Advertisements for Jockey and Hanes underwear feature cool, collected, unembarrassed models who exhibit no consciousness whatsoever of being undressed, and whose nakedness is therefore subtly understated, rendered innocuous by a tasteful pretense of nonchalance that gives them the appearance of being fully clothed. Marky Mark, by contrast, is inescapably disrobed, stripped bare, kicked out into the street

page 38 ►

This essay, "The Origin of the Underwear Revolution in the Gay Subculture," is a chapter from Daniel Harris' book *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, forthcoming from Hyperion Books in March 1997.

by Pithy Galore
and Chris Culwell

One of this year's most-talked about books is *Alan Helms' Young Man from the Provinces*, a memoir about the author's coming of age in the frenetic but secretive homo circles of New York in the '50s and '60s, a time when uncloseted homosexuals were frequently incarcerated and lobotomized for expressing sexual preference.

The story tells of Helms' being turned down for a Rhodes scholarship because of his sexual orientation and his involvement with a glamorous clique of celebrities that included **Tony Perkins**, **Noel Coward**, **Marlene Dietrich**, **Edward Albee**, **Leonard Bernstein**, **Stephen Sondheim**

and others.

Obviously a story like this is ripe for the screen, and, according to a little bird close to Hollywood gossip, that's precisely where *Young Man from the Provinces* is headed. And guess which **beautiful, hot actor** is being considered for the lead? Hint: The titles of two of his recent films involve numerals.

Unhip

We never fail to be entertained by queer journalism in SF. When we aren't laughing at our own foolishness we amuse ourselves no end by guffawing over gaffes in the other homo rags, of which there is no shortage. In fact, the playing field for queer journals has become so crowded these days we've lost track of just how many fish wraps are out there. Let's see,

there's *Bay Times*, *Odyssey*, *Oblivion*, *Pioneers* (or is it *Frontiers*?), we just can't keep track. New to the mix is *Hip Pocket*, which is unique for setting a new low in literary wretchedness in SF.

Hip Pocket's clever title derives from its most obvious feature—it's small enough to fit into your pocket, hence the editor's oft-printed mantra: "We get into a lot of pants." Cute, eh? If you haven't yet reached for that big green bucket, let's jump over to the poetry page and see if we can't find something there to help loosen that lunch. Here is **editor Kent Brandley's** clever way with a rhyme scheme: "I'm a tough old turkey from Albuquerque/just as crazy as a loon/ I get my kicks doin's [sic] tricks/And sailin' in my balloon."

Hurlin' yet? If not, read this lead: "Over the bare slate of the well-used pool table inside the Hole in the Wall Saloon hangs a wire and motorcycle sculpture worthy of SF MOMA but it [sic] this case it's PAPA." What? For one thing, how can a well-used pool table become a bare slate and still be a pool table? More importantly, who on earth is this PAPA, and when does he give us a motorcycle sculpture?

We could go on, but what's the point? Enumerating the *faux pas* of this veritable anthology of printed disasters, in addition to being a Promethean task, would deprive you, dear reader, the pleasure of finding them yourself.

Slaves to fx

When we aren't busy scouring newswracks looking for flotsam and jetsam to clip for our "Most Pathetic" scrapbook, we're usually watching movies, hoping we'll find something transcendent, or at least mesmerizing. Sadly, we must report that *Independence Day* is neither. This overblown, overhyped monstrosity, really an ode to special fx, comes at a perfect time, as the November presidential election is just months away. Yes, with so many images of an exploding White House (and Capitol, and Statue of Liberty), filmgoers can indulge in a little wish-fulfillment before settling down to another four years of dreary political business as usual. (Unless **Bob Dole** wins and we get four years of dithering stand-up comedy.)

Still, for the sensitive, modern queer viewer, *Independence Day* does have a few pleasant surprises. Fans of muscular, mindless butch-

es will enjoy the sight of **Will Smith's** buffed, delicious torso, shown to full advantage by an ever-obliging camera. Smith has a fey buddy, played by **Harry Connick, Jr.**, who instructs Smith that in order to rise to the ranks he must "kiss some serious booty!" — a procedure Connick graphically tries to demonstrate to a passive, amused Smith. This little tryst is interrupted when another soldier passes by and observes what seems to be a marriage proposal between the two manly pals.

Camp followers will enjoy **Harvey Fierstein's** inexplicable turn as an hysterical scientist. Yes, our gal has somehow landed a good government job and is decidedly nonplussed when it looks like aliens are going to blow up the world. Miss F., croaking as usual, spends her pre-immolation time cowering under a desk screeching into a cellular phone: "Mal! Go over to **Aunt Esther's**!" It isn't clear what forces Esther can marshal against massive, ruthless alien attacks—maybe pelt them with matzo?

Subtler camp elements also pop up — particularly the image of an "internally bleeding" **First Lady** and a weak-kneed president who suddenly becomes a kick-ass fighter pilot. But the real question is: Why are the special effects in this film state of the art, while the acting, directing, story, and script are like something out of a 1940s Grade Z serial? Grubbing through films like this for homo subtext is a diverting parlor game, but Puh-leeeze!

Brassy broad

Stella Stevens: Does the name bring to mind sea spray and images of a scantily-clad woman swimming in spike heels?

Well, Stevens was in *The Poseidon Adventure*, it's true, but she is also the star of a ton of other flicks, including *The Nutty Professor*, co-starring **Jerry Lewis**. Apropos the recent **Eddie Murphy** remake of the 1963 comedy classic, **Marc Huestis** and Outsider Enterprises have organized a tribute to Stevens (Friday, July 19 at the Castro Theatre) that will include a screening of *Professor*. Stevens will attend the tribute, which kicks-off with an onstage interview with the actress hosted by film commentator **Jan Wahl**. (Tickets can be purchased at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro St.)

A little homework has turned

up some interesting facts about Ms. Stevens. Few probably know that in 1972 the actress ran a satirical "campaign" for president based on free-love rhetoric and the advocacy of marijuana legalization.

Another little-known fact about Stevens is that she has also directed films, including one she wrote herself, *An American Heroine*, a 90-minute documentary about "heroic women from all walks of life." The 1978 film never found a distributor, but Stevens said she got all the reward she needed for her efforts when a teenage girl at a Texas film festival thanked her for providing "women with role models."



Stella Stevens

Stevens is also a brassy lady. We marvel at her pithiness, which has been elegantly reported in *Va Va Voom*, **Steve Sullivan's** glam tome about sex symbols from the '50s and '60s. Here's Stella on **Elvis**: "Elvis made a lame pass at me in Honolulu [during the shooting of *Girls! Girls! Girls!*] and he was evidently so embarrassed about it after that he found it difficult to even talk to me. I was not impressed." And on marriage: "I don't think marriage is a good thing. Marriage is supposedly a holy thing, yet it becomes a legal thing in a courtroom afterwards when money is involved. I've often thought wouldn't it be nice if there could be a religious divorce ceremony — everybody could go to the same church where you were married, have a big party, you'd break the groom's statuette and he'd break yours, and you'd sling cake at each other." Stella sounds like our kind of gal. ▼

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Matters of life and death

Michael Kearns returns with *Chesley's Jerker*

by Deborah Peifer

What can there be to talk about with an openly gay, publicly HIV-positive actor, writer, director? These days a conversation with Michael Kearns begins with the proud papa talking delightedly about his soon-to-be adopted daughter, Tia. Now 22 months old, Tia is clearly a major light in Kearns' life. During a recent, longish telephone conversation, the subject returns to Tia again and again.

"The story begins with Philip," says Kearns, "my one and only successful adult relationship. When he died in November of

1992, I had to look at my life. What had I not done? I realized that the missing link in the chain of my life was a child. I'd wanted a child since I was a child myself. In one moment, sitting in a lawyer's office talking about all the legalisms surrounding death, I had a sense of the way in which life and death are all attached. After many months of doing foster care with several kids, I knew I was ready to make a commitment to a child. On January 21, 1995, Tia appeared. Technically we're still doing foster care, but we're moving at speed toward adoption."

Kearns has seen his politics and his personal life merge in his relationship with Tia. "She came to me

when she was five months old. She was born weighing less than three pounds. Her mother was a drug addict, so Tia was exposed to cocaine in the uterus. So far, though, there have been no residual effects from the drug exposure."

Why would someone want to take on such a responsibility? "We can talk about racism, discrimination, gay rights, of everyone deserving what's there in the world," says Kearns, "but talk is not enough. My adopting Tia is a very personal act, the politics of which cannot be denied."

Kearns is probably best known for his AIDS monologues, which were published last year in a collection called *T-Cells & Sympathy*. They are now being performed by actors worldwide. "The monologues were written not so very long ago," Kearns states, "but the rage I felt while I was writing and performing them is gone now. The baby made a big difference. I was able to quell that anger and redirect my passion. I had spent a decade watching people die. Now the reverse is happening. I am seeing life unfold."

For Kearns, his second book, *Acting = Life*, an acting text, "means more to me than *T-Cells*. It's such a legacy. I owe so much of it to my students, many of whom are now dead. They taught me this methodology which is based on my being both queer and an actor. I'm so happy with the book, which I hope will be helpful to creative people of all types, not just actors. Writing the book was both empowering and humbling — it meant putting on paper the most precious knowledge I have about the subject I know best. In my acting classes, I



Michael Kearns in the New Conservatory Theatre's *Attachments*.

try to allow people to be more of who they are. It sounds simple, but it's not. I teach them to use their core self, their honest self, instead of the phony self they think they have to present to the world."

Creating family

A writer and performer whose work is informed by the political, Kearns' latest solo piece, *Attachments*, deals with questions of family, a charged topic in the current partisan scene. "Attachments is about Tia," says Kearns, "about the possibility of a white gay man creating family with an African-American baby girl. I've been told that *Attachments* makes people uncomfortable," Kearns explains. "In it I deal with all kinds of families and familial relationships, with me and my own parents as well as my parental relationship with Tia. It's about very uncomfortable situations, about sexuality and how relationships can be sexualized. In fact, after the show opened in Washington, D.C., a critic came backstage and said, 'Please tell me it isn't true.' Other

audience members insisted that this was just a character I made up.

"Attachments is what I'm capable of saying at this moment. But it's about a lot of things that make audiences uneasy. I'm talking about friends now dead, about sexuality, about parents. It's gotten people pretty riled up." Kearns discovered that when he performed the piece "people were angry about an HIV-positive person adopting a child." As if, he comments ruefully, "a relationship is only valuable if it lasts forever. I did not snatch this child from a loving family and the house in the suburbs with the white picket fence. That's not what happened. Tia was an orphan who needed a loving home, and I was someone who could provide that. If I cannot guarantee that I'll live a long time, that doesn't mean that the time I have with Tia — and that she has with me — isn't valuable. I've noticed a lot of gay men feel unworthy of parenthood. But even as a person

next page ▶

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INTERVIEW

Promiscuous us

by Roberto Friedman

Brad Gooch's new novel, *The Golden Age of Promiscuity*, is an uncompromising immersion in the decadence of '70s gay Manhattan. Drug-soaked romps through the sex clubs, experiments in sadomasochism, trance-submission and mummery: it's an exciting world Gooch captures, but one with a dark side—the future.

With main characters clearly based on Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith, and scads of famous names passing through settings like the Ramrod, the Anvil, the Mineshaft, and Studio 54, *Golden Age* reads like fiction in the form of a memoir. By phone, I asked Gooch how much of it was based on his own life.

Brad Gooch: I was there, so it has an edge of memoir to it. The main character, Sean, isn't me, he's one-third me, one-third Mapplethorpe, and one-third some spirit that moved in and took over. Where it

is most a kind of autobiography is in the secondary characters, the cameo appearances, the places.

I wrote it after *City Poet*, my biography of Frank O'Hara, and I couldn't stop doing research! It became a historical novel which includes non-fiction and fiction.

Besides my life, I went to the New York Public Library, which has a lesbian and gay collection: papers from the Gay Activists' Alliance, Vito Russo's papers, stuff like that. I'd sit in this rare manuscript room, and they'd bring boxes to me filled with *Drummer* magazine, *Blueboy*. I realized how unnaturally quickly the '70s have turned into history. These are magazines that should still be under someone's bed! I read all the *Village Voices* on microfilm from that period, it was more of an underground paper then. I interviewed people like Sam Green about Studio 54. I looked at all the *Billboard* charts from those years. I'm 44, so these were my contemporaries: young guys, gay boomers who hit NYC in the '70s. It was a time of changes in ap-

pearance, the development of the clone look, the rejection of the *Boys in the Band* culture.

Roberto Friedman: The title seems the tiniest bit ironic. It's hard to see the times you describe as the Golden Age of anything, when the characters are numbed out from drugs all the time, and Sean has an apparently boundless appetite for degradation.

Well, it's a combination title: it implies authentic nostalgia, but also some dissonance. Sean definitely has a zombie temperament, but at least he's productive. Yes, there's numbness with drugs and anonymous sex, but at the same time there's a sense of adventure, a quest. It was a kind of teeming, shocking, creative world, because everyone was making it up as they went along. I tried to convey that in the book: the Mineshaft, for example, was a very original creation, and it was sort of arty, it wasn't just a backroom.

I always had the sense that

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Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

Brad Gooch, author of *The Golden Age of Promiscuity*.

Michael Kearns

◀ previous page

with HIV, I am not worthless."

Kearns is in town both to perform *Attachments* and to direct a tenth anniversary production of Robert Chesley's *Jerker*. The world premiere production in LA was also directed by Kearns. "The original show opened July 18, 1986, so this revival is ten years to the day since that first show," Kearns explains. A great deal has changed since 1986. "For one thing, the actors never had sex without a condom." They came of age sexually in a world where AIDS already existed. "David Stebbins and Joe Fraser, the actors who originated the roles of J.R. and Bert, are dead now, as is Robert Chesley. When I started working on this revival, I spent some time missing them, and weeping over both their loss and the loss of so many friends and artists. But I also wept with appreciation that I am still alive and able to do this work. One important change that this disease has made in my life is that I will only do work in the theater that is profound, that is meaningful."

On the surface, *Jerker* is a play about phone sex. If I may include a personal note: I am a lesbian to the core, with no interest whatsoever in male sexuality, yet I think *Jerker* is hot! Kearns agrees that the play is sexually explosive, but he sees a great deal more. *Jerker* celebrates the real connection that is possible between two human beings. "I know this play," Kearns explains. "I know the heartbeat of it. Chesley's genius is that he eventually supplants sexuality with intimacy. The play is about lookism, but it's also about intimacy, about sharing. It's about love." So is life, and so is the astonishing Michael Kearns. ▼

Attachments will be presented three times only, July 11-13. *Jerker* runs July 18 through August 3 (preview July 17). Michael Kearns will teach a master acting class on July 13. The class (\$50) is limited to 15 students. All events take place at New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Avenue. Call 861-8972.

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in his shorts, openly giggling about appearing in the midst of people at bus stops who are both captivated and appalled by his gleefully unabashed expression of amusement.

Given the way in which the performer's self-satisfied exhibitionism undercuts the convention of obliviousness that underwear advertisements use to sanitize their images, purging them of erotic content, the Calvin Klein campaign represents a pivotal moment in the history of fashion. An article of clothing that we have either emasculated or kept out of sight entirely has now broken out of its sartorial prison and emerged in public view as the object of nothing less than a mass cult, a collective act of fetishization that testifies to the influence of the gay sensibility on mainstream culture. In the course of the last three decades, this national obsession has become so widespread that it is blurring the most fundamental distinction in fashion: the irrevocable difference between underwear and underwear.



While in most instances large corporations have commercial-

ized the gay subculture by exploiting it for their own financial gain, men's lingerie provides a peculiar example of reverse commercialization, in that it is the subculture that has actually commercialized an aspect of the dominant culture. Up until the 1960s, when developments in fashion inspired by the sexual revolution, as well as by the widening influence of the gay sensibility, introduced into the market brightly colored men's bikinis by Poco and Fruit-of-the-Loom, underwear had been a relatively unchanging commodity, a bland staple in one monochromatic style, insulated from the vicissitudes of seasonal innovations. Underwear was in no sense of the word "fashion," but just an unglamorous necessity immune to fluctuations of taste because it was sealed off in a state of timelessness created by the prudish constraints placed on it by the advertising industry. The moment this carefully preserved artifact was hoisted like a flag as the sexual banner of pre-Stonewall gay America it acquired an entirely new status as a commodity and was elevated from being simply a glorified pants-liner to an object of intrinsic aes-

thetic interest subject to innovation and change. The gay man's upgrading of underwear from a necessity to a luxury, from a hygienic requirement to a stylish accessory, resulted in an extravagant period of research and develop-

colors, and styles, all of which now change with the same volatility, urgency, and even hysteria with which other fashions have fluctuated for centuries. Underwear fetishism has played such an important role in gay culture not only because homosexuals naturally take erotic pleasure in men's lingerie but also because male underwear catalogues, which go back as far as the early 1950s, functioned as a form of bootleg pornography in the absence of other readily available images of naked men. The his-

Underwear has become so commercialized that it has transcended its own inanimacy to become a primitive fetish invested with the power of a totem.

ment. Manufacturers have taken this recalcitrantly uninteresting and monotonous staple and made it a playground of market forces, a wild experiment in the ingenuity of the free enterprise system, which has at last conquered the final frontier of fashion, the plain white brief. This immaculate uniform has been transformed into a dazzlingly gratuitous array of fabrics,

historic scarcity of gay erotica before the 1970s placed the underwear catalogue at the very center of the homosexual's masturbatory fantasies. The underwear revolution of the 1960s thus drew much of its inspiration from the frustrated libido of gay men, who were so starved for representations of the male body that they rifled through whatever material existed on the market. The most deprived and secretive of homosexuals were driven to such unlikely sources of soft-core pornography as the Jockey shorts and long johns featured in Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogues, with their sexless models bereft of genitalia.

Virtually every underwear catalogue published during the 1960s was produced for the homosexual consumer, who feasted his eyes on elongated gay blades in skin-tight shorts and stuffed crotches leaning languorously in poses that advertised their sexual availability. The flamboyant early creations of the underwear revolution bear the hallmarks of a distinctly gay sensibility, from the Wa La jock strap, with a white satin pouch embroidered with a beaded flamingo and lined with natural mink, to the Coat O'Male, a girdle for the upper torso equipped with foam rubber pectorals guaranteed to give you that "He-Man physique in a flash! Now, the secret of Hollywood super-stars can be yours."

The blatantly epicene images in the earliest underwear catalogues reveal an intimate part of straight male attire was fashioned by the obsessions of gay men who laid the foundations for the pioneering work of Calvin

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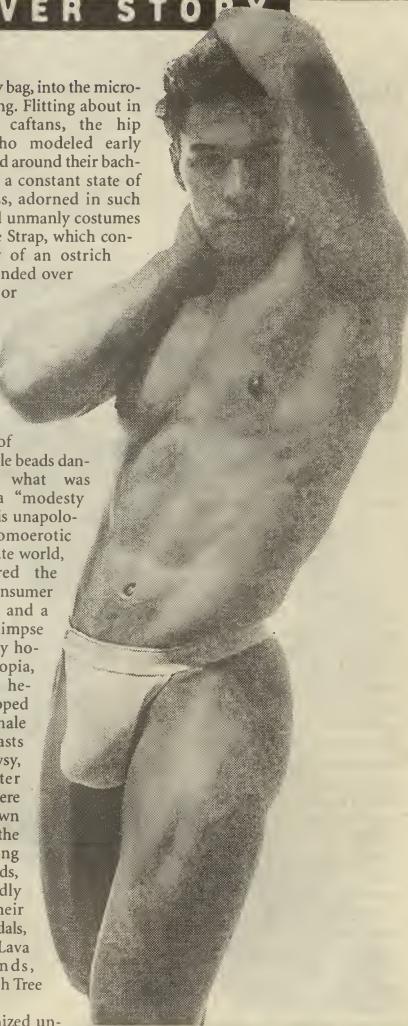
It is not only the look of underwear that has changed since the 1960s, but the almost allegorical way in which homosexuals in a way even moralized underwear. In the process of assigning new sexual meaning to our briefs, we have produced an enormous variety of contradictory interpretations that has made our involvement with this seemingly trivial artifact complex and problematic. The language that both the early catalogues and their contemporary equivalent, International Male, use to describe underwear reflects the abrupt change that we have effected in its status as a commodity. The fanciful briefs and boxer shorts that these companies advertise don't simply "fit," "protect," "cover," and "support," they "sculpt," "mold," "contour," "chisel," "transform," "embrace," "accentuate," and even, in the case of the form-fitting "Body Brief," "kiss your every contour." Underwear has become so commercialized that it has taken the ultimate step in the religion of consumerism and transcended its own inanity to become a primitive fetish invested with the power of a totem, an active agent that shapes and rejuvenates our sagging flesh.

Since the 1960s, homosexuals have revolutionized men's underwear by radically feminizing it, incorporating into its design sensuous fabrics like satin, lamé, and lace and drastically shortening it, shrinking it into overtly erotic cuts modeled on the sultry tediums and sheer negligees of women's lingerie. The gay catalogues of the 1960s were a hotbed of fashion subversiveness in which manufacturers openly set out to make underwear androgynous, to transform the blocky union suit, which sealed men from their ankles to their chins in a sweltering kind of

thermal body bag, into the micro-mesh G-string. Flitting about in diaphanous caftans, the hip swingers who modeled early briefs lounged around their bachelor pads in a constant state of semi-undress, adorned in such precious and unmanly costumes as the Plume Strap, which consisted solely of an ostrich plume suspended over the groin, or the Bugle Bead Fringe Posing Strap, which consisted of a tiny curtain of threaded bugle beads dangling over what was known as a "modesty patch." In this unapologetically homoerotic and effeminate world, which offered the lonely gay consumer both erotica and a reassuring glimpse of an illusory homosexual utopia, scantily clad hedonists whooped it up at all-male weenie roasts and drowsy, morning-after brunches, where they are shown dishing with the girls, noshing on finger foods, and proudly sporting their London Scandals, Batik Lava Lava wrap-arounds, and terry-cloth Tree Top togas.

The feminized underwear fashions of the 1960s emerged out of the unisex world of matronly caftans, gauzy tunics, and "provocatively [sic] sensual 'sin at home' lounge wear," which attracted the homosexual as a form of modified drag. The atrophy of underwear in the course of the 20th century, from the suffocating woolen uniform to the "Miniette," a teardrop *cache sexe* "so light and filmy that it is hardly there," was accelerated by the audacity with which gay men experimented with feminine styles of dress. In the thick of the counterculture's unisex frenzy, homosexuals felt no qualms whatsoever about guying themselves up in the hilariously dated transvestitism of such androgynous outfits as see-through nylon harem pants, fish-net leotards, and sheer "swim coats" that one catalogue tells us "will make you look like a movie queen." The gay

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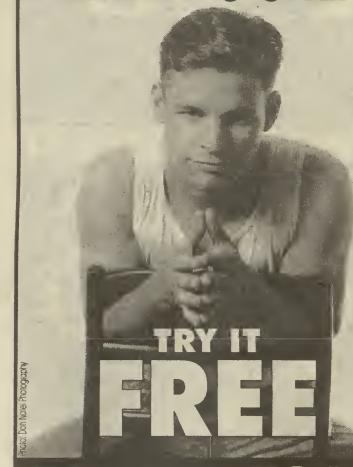
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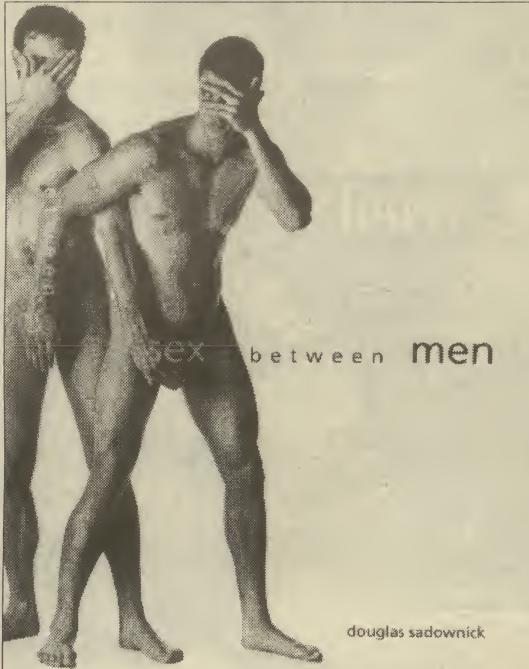
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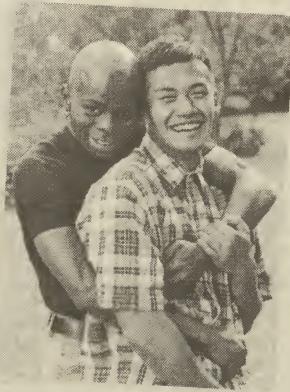
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sensibility thus pervades the modern brief, which would look entirely different if the homosexual subculture had not torn it apart at the seams, stripped it down to its most basic elements, and then remodeled it in accordance with our sexual obsessions, the erotic fantasies that straight men in the 1990s now wear on their own bodies in the form of their Adidas stretch briefs and their Calvin Klein sport straps.



The recent socialization of underwear and its emergence as an appropriate form of semi-public attire have prompted manufacturers to define various kinds of briefs by the particular situations in which they are most appropriately worn. As underwear is reclassified from an hygienic appendage to a fashion accessory, it experiences a significant loss of adaptability. Companies are inventing a complex new etiquette in order to persuade the gay consumer to diversify his underwear collection, to expand it so that it reflects the same hierarchies of style implicit in other more conventional sorts of fashion, like the difference between formal wear and casual wear.

The International Male catalogue fulfills the basic capitalistic mandate to create out of a single monotonous commodity a multiplicity of choices by designing rarified styles of underwear that serve increasingly specialized functions, thus fostering the illu-

sion that there is a strict fashion code that differentiates the underwear we wear to work from the underwear we wear on a date, loungewear from sleepwear, gymwear from jokewear (by which I mean the underwear

with the enervating trends of underwear fashion has provoked a backlash among some members of the gay community, an attempt to undo the homosexualizing of the brief, to make it straight again, to restore it to its golden age of manly innocence, the unspoiled era of artlessness and naivete that predates the rise of the gay subculture. The gay underwear renaissance launched in the 1960s is thus entering a second stage,

that of a counterrevolution in which our fetishism is turning back on itself and rejecting its own mannerisms in an effort

to decontaminate and purify what many now view as a morally compromised garment emasculated by its association with gay life. In the put-it-back-on tendency of the 1990s, we see gay culture reacting against its own manic sexuality, which is leading "straight-acting" and "straight-appearing" gay men to rid themselves of any visible traces of the subculture and aim instead for the bland invisibility that will enable them to merge seamlessly into mainstream heterosexual society.

The new self-consciousness that characterizes this second stage of the gay underwear revolution has also given rise to what might be called "meta-underwear" underwear that is in some sense

"about" underwear, that openly comments on its own structure, exaggerating all of the basic components that hold it together, the waist bands, straps, seams, and flies. Engaging in a self-reflexive analysis of the "anatomy" of each particular design, manufacturers obsessively examine the garment for new sources of fetishistic appeal, singling out various structural features, which are now overstated, put into a sort of visual italics or quotation marks.

Designers pursue this new spirit of underwear formalism by zeroing in on the brief's supporting elements, blowing them up like photo enlargements to twice their normal size and eroticizing them with a myopic intensity that makes the products sold in the International Male catalogue seem florid and overwritten. Often needlessly complicated with laces, zippers, and snaps, underwear flies are no longer simply convenient openings but full-fledged codpieces, distended pouches that protrude from the crotch of the brief, offering at once an invitation, a door marked "please enter," and a prohibition, a locked door that suggest a new degree of inaccessibility. Waistbands are no longer discreetly camouflaged but are now three and sometimes four inches wide, like that found on Tactics' Cross Trainer, a huge sash of a waistband that encircles the abdomen like the belt of a jockstrap; or that found on Tactics' Hi-Top Brief, which is as wide as a cummerbund, composing virtually 50 percent of the garment. Straps now appear in superfluous places, criss-crossing the buttocks like scaffolding, or are elongated to preposterous lengths. Basix's Body Thong, for instance, is a jockstrap that involves the entire body, its spandex belts running all the way from the crotch to the shoulders and then plunging down the back, like the spaghetti straps of a woman's evening gown,

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Photo: ID Gender Designer: Roger's Vision

COMIC TORY

only to disappear tantalizingly between the cheeks of the ass. The seams and elastic bands that once served a strictly utilitarian and unobtrusive function of shaping and defining the garment are now the objects of obsessive interest in themselves, the source of a formalist fixation or mania that designers express through a concerted strategy of over-emphasis.



If the second stage of the gay underwear revolution involves a self-conscious examination of the structure of our briefs, it also involves a concerted effort on the part of many manufacturers to broaden the appeal of their products to heterosexual men who, up until the last two decades, have resisted flashy trends in men's lingerie. Whereas the earliest catalogues appealed exclusively to gay men, betraying the sexual orientation of their readers in everything from drawings of strapping cowboys by Tom of Finland to stationery that featured naked boys wiggling their buttocks invitingly in the air, recent catalogues are far more ambivalent and understated. As a gay spokesman for International Male put it, his company now routinely aims for that "grey area" that will continue to appeal to their core homosexual market and yet also entice venturesome straight men who would be repelled by open reminders of the link between gay culture and the sluttish styles of the manufacturer's merchandise. As companies attempt to sell their products outside of the narrow market niche in which they were largely trapped before the 1970s, they have undertaken a process of de-gaying underwear, re-masculinizing it, and carefully suppressing its disreputable origins in homosexual fetishism. It is one of the major ironies of the underwear revolution that gay liberation did not enable the consumer to acknowledge the homoerotic appeal of men's lingerie but drove our briefs back into the closet, with the paradoxical result that the gayest underwear catalogues appeared before Stonewall and not, as we would have expected, after it.

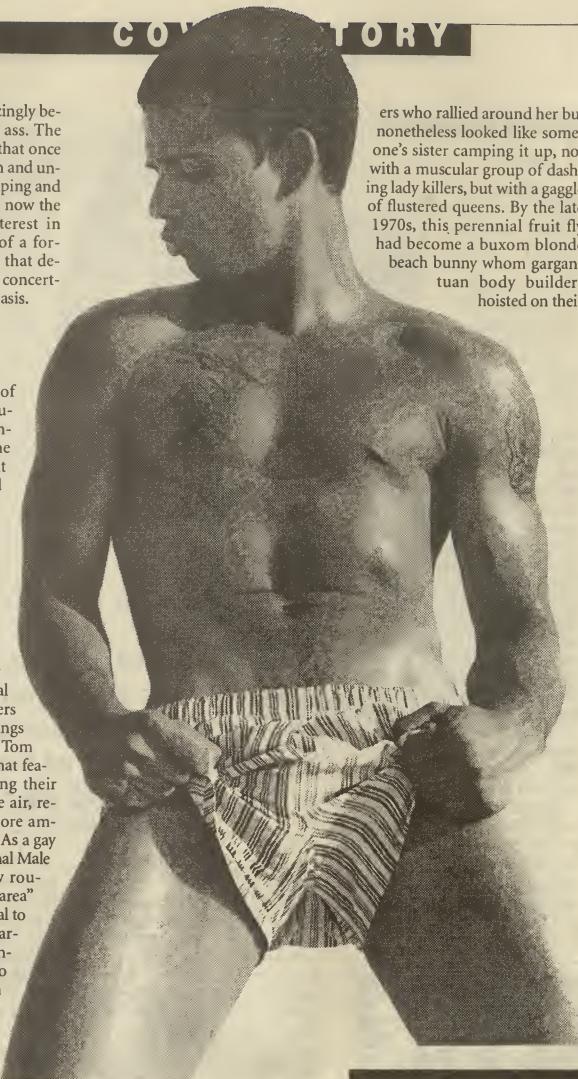
Nowhere is this de-gaying process expressed more clearly than in the changes that occurred in the Ah Men catalogues from the 1960s to the 1970s. In its first issues, Ah Men was awash in camp,

ers who rallied around her but nonetheless looked like someone's sister camping it up, not with a muscular group of dazzling lady killers, but with a gaggle of flustered queens. By the late 1970s, this perennial fruit fly had become a buxom blonde beach bunny whom garran-tuan body builders hoisted on their

shoulders, staring lecherously at her cleavage and swooning in the sand dunes as she paraded disdainfully by. Although Ah Men continued well into the 1970s to sell such gay products as phallic-shaped vibrators and books entitled *Asses*, it significantly toned down its campy sense of humor in an obvious bid to broaden its appeal to straight men, who would undoubtedly have been mystified, if not appalled, by swim coats that "make you look like a movie queen" or mini-skirts that are advertised as perfect either for a female friend or for Halloween.

The evangelical mission of contemporary manufacturers to reach beyond the faithful gay brethren of the new underwear religion to the

page 42 ►



**EAST BAY
LATIN EXPLOSION!**
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In addition to describing a set of debonair if garish ascots as an accessory that is "guaranteed to make you look like that TV star with only 18 months to live," it pulled such stunts as photographing a line of laughing gay men in bikinis next to a guffawing fag hag in a leopard-skin bathrobe, who seems to be playing the role of the lead Rockette of the Ziegfeld Follies, an impression confirmed by the accompanying caption, which reads, "now boys, it's one, two, three, kick!" As the company evolved, however, its catalogues became much more subdued. Among other things, a major change took place from the 1960s to the 1970s in a stock character that recurred in Ah Men's pages, the token female who, in early issues of the catalogue, was dressed as scantily as the giddy male revel-

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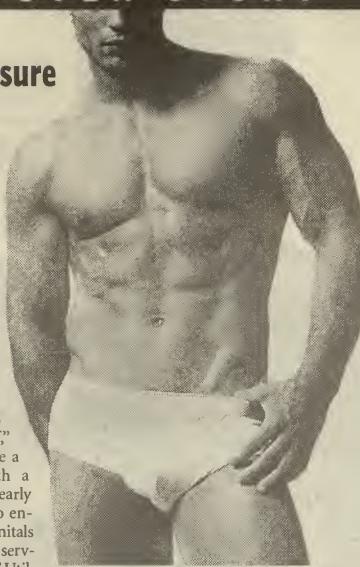
2nd MONDAY
EVERY MONTH
S. F. JACKS
A PRIVATE J.O. CLUB

Under exposure

◀ page 41

size pouches, strapless thighs — functioned solely to eliminate unsightly panty lines, or, in the case of the "U.S. Jock Brief," to offer something rather inscrutably described as "natural vertical lift support without uptight pullback." The International Male catalogue also ascribes such prosaic, non-sexual qualities to the "Support Bar Brief," which is equipped like a padded brassiere with a foam rubber cushion clearly designed like a falsie to enlarge the bulge of the genitals but which is justified as serving to "support and lift." Utilitarianism thus becomes a justification for fetishism, a ready-made excuse or alibi that allows straight men at once to indulge obscenely in their erotic obsessions and falsify or gloss over the homosexual hedonism that the International Male catalogue celebrates with such wild abandon.

A publication that otherwise reeks of the rapturous self-indulgence of Southern California is in fact riddled with inhibitions and pruderies that suffuse the catalogue's semi-pornographic pages with the rhetorical equivalent of a maidenly blush, a self-conscious-



the second stage of the underwear revolution, as men's lingerie passes out of the hands of the subculture and into those of a more broadly-based heterosexual market, is also expressed in the frieze-like frontalism of underwear ads. In most catalogues, the butt is the dark side of the moon, unseen, enigmatic, unrepresentable. With very few exceptions, companies are reluctant to let the model turn his back to his audience but insist that he stand face forward, looking in the general direction of the viewer, perpetually on guard against the lurking sodomite who might sneak up on him unawares, launching an assault against this most vulnerable region of the male anatomy. In part, the relative absence of butt shots reveals how incompletely our culture has eroticized the male body, which, unlike the female body, can never be the passive recipient of some-

In the fiercely defended frontal nudity of the contemporary underwear ad, we see an implicit acknowledgment of the presence of the homoerotic gaze.

ness that surfaces in this dissonant relation of text to image. This surprising lack of candor stems from both the discomfort straight men feel about allowing themselves to be admired as sex objects and from a deliberate attempt to conceal from them the origins of underwear fetishism in gay culture. In this way, the influence of homosexuality on the whimsically homoerotic appearance of International Male's briefs is glossed over in language that transforms even the most screamingly mercenary cod pieces and G-strings into garments as dowdy and serviceable as corsets. The marketing of underwear to heterosexuals since the 1970s provides a clear instance of how the translation to mainstream straight culture of an artifact or ritual that originates in the gay community, from men's lingerie to disco to the dance craze Voguing, necessitates an act of neutralizing self-erasure. Just as underwear must be laundered of the effeminate taint it has acquired after decades of gay experimentation, so the co-optation of gay culture in general involves the systematic elimination of its most distinctive features, which must be sanitized if they are to be absorbed by the mainstream. The commercialization of gay culture thus inevitably leads to its collapse.

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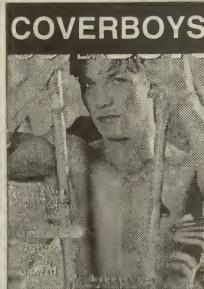
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Hollywood babylon

The New Lorelei Theater Company, a non-profit, community theater troupe composed of talented locals, presents *Cabaret Hollywood II*, an eclectic cabaret revue that recreates Hollywood's glamorous golden years. Come see talented SF performers bring Bette Davis, Judy Garland, Rita Hayworth, Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Marlene Dietrich and others to life before your very eyes.

Cabaret II happens Friday, July 12 (9-11 p.m.) at Kimo's Lounge at Pine and Polk Streets. Admission is \$5. A percentage of the proceeds benefits Lorelei's "Hollywood Canteen," a free USO-style show designed to uplift and entertain PWA's and others with disabling conditions.

Lorelei's future projects include *Cabaret Sixties*, featuring stars and personalities from that glamorous decade, in addition to excerpts from such memorable musicals as *West Side Story*, *Cabaret* and *Hair*. For information, call 921-6748. ▼



Radio daze

by Chad Jones

Perennial wiseacre Scott Capurro, queen of the Prozac nation, is back from the far corners of the world with a new one-man show called *The Doctor is On*, now at Josie's Cabaret. Capurro says he got the idea for the show while sitting in with a radio therapist. Never one to sit around quietly, Capurro took over the doctor's duties for a call from a troubled young male whose girlfriend liked him to wear her panties. Capurro's advice stressed the importance of condoms in any sexual contact, but then he asked the young man to send photos before further advice could be dispensed. The experience so thrilled Capurro that he's written an entire show in which he plays Dr. Scott (what a stretch!), a gay radio psychologist who counsels the lovesick.

As usual, the dark, tortured and still-single Capurro is using the dramatic arts as personal therapy sessions. Those who saw the

comic's last show, the fabulous *Risk-Gay*, will remember the "character" Martin, a drug-pushing prostitute/stripper with whom the comedian was involved. Well, Martin is back in *The*



Scott Capurro in *The Doctor is On*.

Doctor as the doctor's boyfriend, who has an interesting way of twisting the good doctor's advice. As we all know, nothing is funnier than the truth. Besides, who needs fiction when real life provides such feisty facts? *The Doctor is On* runs through the 28th. Call 861-7933 for tickets. ▼

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All proceeds to benefit
the Castro Lions Charity Fund.

To donate leather call Lion Tom Rodgers,
861-0516 after 6 pm, or bring items
to the auction.

Gearing up for Leather Summer Games

by Mister Marcus

The major leather title contests culminate on Saturday, Sept. 28, when the 1996 International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy will be chosen in San Francisco, followed the next day by the world's biggest leather street party, the 13th Folsom Street Fair. But before that – and in case you'll be on vacation in some of the venues listed – lots of leather activity will take place.

While this is definitely Drummer season, there are a few functions in between the regional contests you should know about:

Weekend, July 12-14: The fourth regional Mr. Drummer takes place at the Baltimore Eagle on Saturday, July 13. Sponsor Allen Grim has half-a-dozen contestants vying to replace Ed Ryder, last year's winner. No details reached me at my deadline.

Weekend, July 18-20: Quite possibly the biggest leather event ever in Philadelphia – the 10th annual International Ms. Leather contest.

Sponsored by Bare Images Productions (i.e., IMs.L '93 Amy Marie Meek), the full weekend is \$80 with the Sunday brunch or \$60 without.

There's a \$2 service charge for Visa and Mastercard orders. You can mail your ticket orders to BIP, 4332 Browne St., Omaha, NE 68111-1829, or call (402) 451-7987.

The IMs.L hotel is Holiday Inn-Independence Mall (800-843-2355), but it's sold out and the rate is \$120 per night. The weekend package includes a basket auction on Friday, workshops, Tribe 8 concert, a vendor fair, hometown party, Sunday night wind-down party, plus a souvenir program. Albuquerque's Pat Baillie will pass her sash to one of almost 30 contestants (including three from the SF Bay Area: Thumper, Miranda and Beth).

Sunday, July 21: Mr. Northeast Drummer at The L.U.R.E. in New York City, sponsored by NYC



Mister Marcus

These two hunks in Scottish uniforms turned heads at the Phoenix Uniform Club's sold out Leather/Uniform Ball on Friday, June 28, in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building.

icon Wally Wallace. Adam Colt relinquishes the sash to one among almost half-a-dozen contestants. No ticket prices or info at my deadline, but the action begins at 2200 on Sunday night. Call (212) 989-4794 for more info.

Weekend, July 26-28: The current International Mr. Drummer David Walker passes his

Rocky Mountain Drummer title to a leather hopeful on Saturday night, July 27. Greg Lowe, the sponsor, has his team geared up

and the expectations are high. Call (954) 522-7508 for more details.

Locally, Mr. and Ms. Alameda Co. Leather will be chosen at the Turf Club in Hayward to benefit the AEF in the East Bay. Also a cheeks & chaps contest, workshops and vendors, plus a leather walk. More info can be obtained by writing ACLC, P.O. Box 20759, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Weekend, Aug. 7-11: Omar Moseley passes his Mr. Northern California Drummer title to a successor in the competition sponsored by Greg's Ballroom and Daddy's. Regional sponsor



"Dallas Cheer" of Dallas, Texas, won the Cable Car Award for Outstanding Out-of-Town Marching Unit in this year's pride parade.

Mister Marcus

for another dynamic weekend. Call (303) 861-2066 for details.

Weekend, Aug. 2-4: Ed Ivey, the newest regional Drummer sponsor, stages the Mr. Florida Drummer competition in Fort Lauderdale this weekend. Tickets are only \$10 for the Saturday night contest and show at the Vintenette Carroll Theatre. There have been Southern, Northern and Mid-Florida competitions already, so the outlook is favorable

Graylin Thornton had furnished no further details at my deadline.

Weekend, Aug. 16-18: The International Mr. Fantasy contest takes place in Omaha this weekend. Dustin Logan anticipates a myriad of contestants, but at my deadline, no details furnished. Call (402) 346-8577 for info on competing, tickets, hotel, etc.

Weekend, Aug. 23-25: Mr. Great Lakes Drummer '96 contest at the Columbus Eagle bar. Call

Join In!

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Diverse crowd.
Hot guys.
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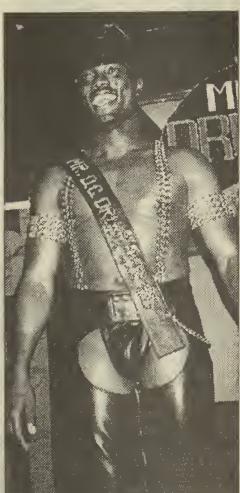
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expires 8/1/96
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6 BUCK FUCK



Vern Stewart

25-year-old Keyth Fitzgerald is Mr. D.C. Drummer '96 and will compete for the Mid-Atlantic Drummer title at the Baltimore Eagle next Saturday night, July 13.

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, July 11

Sendoff party for Ms. Golden Gate Leather Beth, off to compete at IMs.L in Philly, 2000-2300, with a \$6 beer bust, snacks and raffle prizes. People with penises are also encouraged to attend.

Big Basket contest at The Edge, 2000-2400, with a \$6 beer bust. The contest is at 2200. Win \$100 and photo session with Joe Balducchi.

Weekend, July 12-14

Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer contest at the Baltimore Eagle on Saturday night.

Cal Eagles MC's "Spirit of the Eagle" weekend run to Saratoga Springs near Clear Lake. If you still want to go (\$105), call the hot line: 267-0560.

Saturday, July 13

Masters' & Mistresses' Social (1900-2200) at The Stockade in San Jose by Journeyman II Academy for IMs.L Pat Baille's stepping down and send-off for Miranda von Stockhausen. MyS is off to compete in Philly as well. The \$6 cover includes snacks, auction, etc. Wear leather!

Sunday, July 14

Castro Lions' annual leather auction at the

Eagle from 1600 to 1900, with an \$8 beer bust and food. Valuable leather will be auctioned off to swell the coffers of the club's benefit fund.

Free "live" entertainment at Hamburger Mary's at 2100 every Sunday. This week: Rhythmic Rustlers.

Zeus Studios' annual introduction of Zeusman and Zeusboy, the beer bust, from 1500 to 1900 at the Faultline in Los Angeles, benefiting Aid for AIDS.

Weekend, July 19-21

Lazy Bear Weekend at the Triple R in Guerneville, with a welcome party on Friday, bear bust at pool on Saturday afternoon and Bear Den party Saturday night. A fundraiser for AIDS Benefits Counselors and Face to Face.

Intl. Ms. Leather contest in Philadelphia. See above.

In SF: Women's Play Party by Strike Zone, 2100-0300, \$12-\$15 sliding scale. Doors open 2100-2400. Call 522-2340 for invite and location.

Sunday, July 21

Mr. Northeast Drummer contest at the L.U.R.E. in N.Y. at 2200. Thanks, Adam Colt, for a great, very fun year.



The Daddy's/SF Eagle Leather Pride float carried titled and "commoner" leather icons on their stunning float (created by Scott Paeth) in this year's parade.

(614) 470-0231 for details. Alvin Robinson of Madison, Wisc., will pass the sash to his successor.

Weekend, Aug. 30-Sept. 2:

For leatherwomen only: Powersurge '96 biannual conference, including workshops, panels and demos for all levels. Vendors, deep forest Amazon feast and play parties for women-oriented women. The "dick-in-the-drawer" rule applies to all play parties and valid female ID is required. Write to Powersurge, P.O. Box 23352, Seattle, WA 98102 or call (206) 233-8429. At this late date, the weekend fee is \$95. Pacific Plaza is the host hotel: (800) 426-1165.

Weekend, Sept. 6-8: The Boston Ramrod is the setting for the final regional Drummer event. Jeff Zirpolo, veteran contest producer, will oversee the Mr. New England Drummer '96 soiree, which is dedicated to the late Hawk Brooks (formerly of San Francisco), who won the title last year.

Week, Sept. 22-29: Thousands of leather people will be in San Francisco for Leather Pride Week, the International Mr. Drummer finals (Saturday, Sept. 28) and the 13th Annual Folsom Street Fair the next day. Kicking off with the Leatherwalk '96 on Sunday, Sept. 22, a myriad of activities will take place in The City That Knows How. Committees are already hard at work planning seven days of leather heaven.

The envelope please...

The Cable Car Awards board of directors has announced this year's Pride Parade winners: Most Outstanding Out-of-Town Float:

Nobody's Place (Vallejo); Outstanding In-Town: Birds of Paradise; Outstanding Out-of-Town Marching Unit: Dallas Cheerleaders. Most Inspirational: AIDS Emergency Fund; Most Outrageous: Community Thrift Store; In-Town Marching Unit: SF Lesbian & Gay Peace Officers and Firefighters. A special judges' award went to Radiant Light Ministry. See you all onstage at the

ceremony next March! Laid-back around town after the parade, but a nice turnout for Ms. San Jose Leather Miranda and Intl. Ms. Deaf Leather Cool Cat last Saturday afternoon at Daddy's, and a great crowd for the Kairos House beer bust at the Eagle on Sunday afternoon. Lots of leather folk at the Fillmore Street Fair. Very warm on Saturday, coolish on Sunday! ▶



Ms. San Jose Leather Miranda von Stockhausen embraces stud-about-town George Carreras-Grist at the Phoenix Uniform Club's leather/uniform ball on June 28. Where's Earl? Where's Diana?

a taste of leather
(THE TRADING POST)

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VESTS	SLAVE COLLARS
LUBRICANTS	PENIS WHIPS
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HARNESSSES	LEASHES
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BEAR SIZE SLINGS	MAGAZINES
MOTORCYCLE JACKETS	JOCK STRAPS
WATER PIPES	LEATHER CHAPS
LEG CUFFS	LEATHER BASEBALL CAPS
ANAL BALLS	ROLLING PAPERS
LEATHER SHORTS	RAISED DECALS
COCK & BALL TOYS	ETHYL GAS
LEATHER GLOVES	KEYRINGS
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PADDLES	LEATHER KILTS
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!	

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Tues 16

Ain't Misbehavin'

Fats Waller musical starring the Pointer Sisters. Tues.-Sun. thru 7/21, call for times. \$32-55. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

Appendicitis:

"The removal of a seemingly useless organ," paintings by Calvin Turnwall. Cat's Grill and Alley Club, 1190 Folsom. 431-3332.

Brazilian Rainbow Party

Gay dance party every Tuesday. \$5. Bahia Cabana, 1600 Market. 861-4202.

Foggy City Dancers

Gay & Lesbian Square Dancing, free introductory classes Tues. thru July, 9:30pm. Live Oak School, 117 Diamond. 905-4546.

Go Unnoticed:

"Images of (Re)Generation" Emerging artists, performers and writers explore immigration. Thru 8/10. Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

In Our Sights:

"Women Look at Guns," photo exhibit, free. Thru 8/3. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

QTV

Extensive coverage of '96 Pride Parade and Celebration. Cable Channel 47, 7pm.

Squirm

New coalition of young queers to travel to GOP Convention in San Diego. Meets every Tues. at 7pm. Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez, 431-2228 x269.

Tranny-Shack

Heklina presents the drag queen and crossdresser's club and cabaret, every Tues. \$2. 10pm-2am. Stud, 339 9th St. 863-6623.

Vita Nova

Two gay artists: paintings by J. Martin Rodriguez, sculpture by Jeffrey Dugan. Thru 7/24. Buechon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Wed

Burn My Butt—A Perversion

Tony Perucci's comedy: a secretary fends off her groping boss. \$5. 8pm. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 885-6261.

Deborah Christian

Reading from her sci-fi novel, "Mainline," free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

The Doctor is ON

Scott Capurro is a radio psychologist in new comic solo performance. \$12. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 7/28. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Glenn Ligon

New work: struggles of cultural and sexual identity. Thru 8/25. \$7. SFMOMA, 1513 3rd St. 357-4000.

Medea, the Musical

John Fisher's mockery of Greek tragedy. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sat. & Sun. at 3pm thru 8/11. \$25-29. Stage Door Theatre, 420 Mason. 433-9500.

Paris Modern:

"The Swedish Ballet 1920-1925," exhibition about the



Also part of *Introductions '96: Timothy Cummings' Fragile Monsters, Cursed Children*, including "Pig Boy" (pictured), at Catharine Clark Gallery. See Saturday.

avant-garde dance co. Thru 9/29. \$7. Palace of Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.

Party

David Dillon's play: 7 gay men play truth-or-dare. Wed.-Sun. thru 7/28, call for times. \$20-25. Tonight at 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy featuring the NY cast. Tues.-Sun., extended thru 9/1. Tonight at 8pm, call for times. \$25-38. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Play:

"The Art of Toy Theater" exhibition, free. Thru 8/24. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Secrets

Voyeur photography by Merry Alpern, Andrea Modica, Sage Sohier, Bureau of Inverse Technology. Thru 8/4. \$4. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Thur 18

Deirdre Bair

Author reads from portrait of "Anais Nin," free. 7:30pm. Black Oak Books, 1491 Shattuck, Berkeley. 486-0698.

Erotic Art

Group show of 5 artists depicting their fantasies of the human body. Thurs.-Sat. thru 8/10. Naked Art Gallery, 355 Bryant #110. 284-0567.

Play:

"The Art of Toy Theater" exhibition, free. Thru 8/24. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove.

Jerker

10th anniversary production of Robert Chesley's elegy in 20 phone calls, opens tonight. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 8/3. \$18-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 961-8972.

Nothing Matters

Group evidence of why. Artists include Bob Ortblall, Gay Outlaw, Norma Yorba. Thru 8/31. Refusalon, 20 Hawthorne. 546-0158.

Patricia L. Maney

"Introductions '96," mixed media assemblage. Thru 7/31. Ebert Gallery, 49 Geary. 296-8405.

Robert Henry Johnson

Dance Company's Fourth Repertory season continues, premiere of "Bio." Thurs.-Sun. at 7:30pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 7/21. \$12-20. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

Shade

Contributors read from anthology of African American gay authors, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Visual Aid

3rd annual Grantee Exhibition. Wed.-Sat. thru 8/3. Space 743, 743 Harrison. 777-8242.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.



Conrad Hechter's "Dwone" is part of the all-male group show, *Men at Work*, at ARTwork Gallery. See Friday for reception listing.

This Week's Dinner Specials



Grilled center-cut Pork Chops with pineapple sweet & sour sauce, chef's rice or mashed potatoes.....\$9.50

Penne Pasta with Chicken and Rock Shrimp, creamy pesto.....\$11.95

Grilled 12-oz N.Y. Pepper Steak with brandy-cream sauce.....\$11.95

Chicken Fried Steak with mashed potatoes & country gravy and fresh vegetables.....\$9.50

PRIME RIB with baked potato and creamy horseradish.....\$9.95

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Dinner from 5:00 PM nightly

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PARTING GLANCES

101 South 6/13/7AM

You: dark green BMW. Me: red Miata. Burlingame exit. How about dinner? ☎ 1608.

Karaoke-Lyrics Rest, Millbrae
Marty, you were wifefriends, I was manager there. We finally met, I cannot stop thinking about you. You: from Hayward. I would love to get together, pls call, Tim. ☎ 1602.

Pasquas Sat Eve 10ish 6/15
You Andrew? Latin? Fine! Me: Caucasian, leather jacket, black shirt. Thought you were wifeyfriend. My friend said you weren't. I want to go out w/you! ☎ 1603.

Broad-United Air
Hawaii to SFO on 5/5. You are a banker. I am a pharmacist & live in the South Bay. Want to see & live in the South Bay. ☎ 1604.

Gay Buddhist Group

You: your name's David, a gorking Asian w/a warm, beautiful smile. Me: handsome, blond, in my 30's. You: have a heavy crush on you, and need to talk. ☎ 1605.

The Cafe & Detour

I saw you at both on Thursday. Lots of eye contact. Me: Latin, shy & match book in hand. I was w/ friend, long curly hair. Please call! Let's talk. ☎ 1606.

V Ness/Market 6/15 Just Desserts
You: handsome man carrying a small cake box. Me: dk hair, mustache, plaid shirt, black jacket & jeans. We made eye contact, nodded, & made friends--could kick myself--call. ☎ 1607.

Headline's Monday 6/17 5:00
You: blue T-shirt, khaki shorts. Me: AIDS Ride T-shirt, green shorts. Loved your smile, too shy to say "hi." Wish I had! Coffee sometime? ☎ 1608.

Timberland Man Church/Market
6/24, 6PM. You: tall, Latin(?) dk eyes. We exchanged glances on 22, then waited for J. You asked time; I asked about your shoes. Can't get you out of my mind. Call. ☎ 1701.

Eric, I Waited By The Tree Mon,
But you didn't show up. I was disappointed. Can we try again? And how about that tour of state! Bob ☎ 1702.

CBK-Looking For Paul B.
Paul, where are you? Haven't seen you at C8C in over a month. Miss you. Please contact Peter. ☎ 1703.

Hey Hank! How Do You Jack-Off
With your finger all cut up like that? Let me help. The spider bite is all better, I can use both hands on you. The diploma only works if you call the number on the back. Or this one? ☎ 1704.

Black Sands 'Hrs4p1y' 6/23
You: blonde w/great tan. Me: tall, dark hair, white Honda. Have seen you many times at the beach, but too shy to say hello. Want to meet? ☎ 1705.

Cafe Foods 6/20

You: blonde hair, white shirt, black jeans, beautiful smile. Me: Asian, dark brown hair in check out line. I was leaving, wanted to meet you. Please call. ☎ 1706.

Relocating Cowboy

Talked Daddy Day breakfast, Jeff & I would like to meet Greg & Brent again. John. ☎ 1707.

Elliot of Marin-Castro Pasqua
1:00, 6/1: HOT! I was wifeyfriend. You had ridden since 6:00. Show me how you stay cool under those hot motorcycle leathers. Call me, Ed. ☎ 1708.

Castro 7/8th 6/18 6:20PM
You: green shirt, 40ish. Me: white shirt/blue pants, 30ish. Exchanged smiles & looks as you crossed street. Standing against Walgreens you were gone when I came out. Call me. ☎ 1709.

Larry From Sacramento
Exchanged talking in line at film festival. Would like to see a movie w/you this time. Call & arrange for your next trip to SF. Why not? Michael/Oakland. ☎ 1710.

Buff BM At Divasidero Brinstone
You: beautiful, shirtless, walking towards Castro. Us: while Toyota, bearded, long blond hair driver & Asian friend. We wanted to meet you at "the mint." ☎ 1801.

Mark Solstice Party 6/22

Thinking about that deep soul kiss. You: GBM, shaved head, gym toned Me: GBM, same name, dreads, tattoo, pierced.

Kissed me on my way out. You said I was talented. You are delicious! ☎ 1802.

6/27 At The Regal

I asked you to let down your hair. Can we meet again? ☎ 1803.

Ale! From Fresno, Castro 6/29

I loved touching you, talking about volleyball & watching boys at the street party.

We should have exchanged numbers. Tell me how to get in touch. Rob from Santa Cruz. ☎ 1804.

Jessie? Gay Parade

We were both at Gay Pride parade w/friends but there was chemistry between us. Let's meet so we can explore! I'm thinking about you. My name is Curtis. ☎ 1805.

On The Road 180 Dixon-Davis

Calif. license plate #3AZ2223, Wed. June 19, 11:30 AM. Gave mutual nods, but split at Reno turn off--felt good, hope you find this!! ☎ 1806.

Kaiser-Walnut Creek

Exchanged glances few months ago. You in blue shirt, me in suit. Let's re-acknow. edge and go from here. ☎ 1806.

Castro 7/8th 6/18 6:20PM
You: green shirt, 40ish. Me: white shirt/blue pants, 30ish. Exchanged smiles & looks as you crossed street. Standing against Walgreens you were gone when I came out when? ☎ 1805.

Strangers On A Muni Train 6/28

You: beard, glasses, handsome. Me: glasses, mustache. I basked in your sweet, sexy, cruisey smile. Detraining at Castro Station. You turned. Like another ride? ☎ 1852.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Positive Artist 40ish

GWM, 6', likes dogs, wine, camping, cars, food, movies, theater, dance, gardening, sex & love, honesty, jewelry ISO same. ☎ 1609.

GWM Wanted By Shy GAM

Very attractive GWM, 25, 5'10", seeks handsome, fit, prof. GWM under 40, w/interests in travel & classical music for pos. relationship. Both HIV+. Dress/sheer stock leis a+. ☎ 1610.

Platonic Gdkgng Slim Retired Guy

Musically, exercise, hip, 5'9", 150#, HIV+, seeks similar guy, nonsexual, interests: music, opera, politics, science, etc. Smoke & Bars OK. ☎ 1611.

Self Aware And Sexy Hot

Attractive GWM, 27, 5'9", 155#, brown/brown. Professional Francophile, gym-going SM bottom. Seeking attractive, in shape GWM, possible French, under 35, HIV+, educated, intimacy capable, top, NS/ND no clubs. ☎ 1612.

Sincere Responses Only For GAM

Professional, mid 30's, shy & quiet looking for others interests in true friendship, theater, movies, short trips, quiet evenings & maybe an honest LTR. ☎ 1613.

Whit Boss Seeks Black Boss

Smooth, fit, 51, 5'7", 145#, great kisser, boss at work, needs bigger, total top, black boss in bed. Sucking, fucking, cuddling to start. LTR. Please no heavy drugs or alcohol. ☎ 1614.

Pos User-Friendly WM 50's Sons

In shape, NS males, 18+, for friendship & safe sex. Be masc. or boyish, any race, HIV-. Pluses: hunk, hung, affectionate, versatile. Romantic min retreat western Sonoma county. ☎ 1615.

Hot Masculine Man

WM, 42, 5'10", 175#, mustache, muscular, seeks masculine, muscular guy, 40+, mustache, maybe balding, who enjoys working out, outdoors, etc., who wants relationships/soul mate, later move to country or desert? ☎ 1616.

In Search Of

Open, honest, & not afraid to walk down a path we haven't been on., HIV+ 11 yrs & healthy, 5'8", 140#, easy going, romantic, likes life, board games, cards etc. ☎ 1617.

Bearcat Seeks Hissing Panther

Cat w/bear tendencies. GWM, 38, brn/grn, 185#, attractive-not buffed. Dangerously intelligent. No preconception. Likes hairy bears & cats w/mustaches. ☎ 1618.

Young Gdkgng Son Wanted

By mature Dad, 72, 5'8", 165#. For on going sexual intimate times. You are 18-40, & need an understanding Father to love & be loved by. ☎ 1619.

Bottom Dad Seeks Top Son

25-45, to share a good life w/professional GWM, 41, 5'6", 135#, HIV-. Must be goal/power/wealth focused. N/A/D/S. ☎ 1620.

Sincere Only

GWM, 48, 5'8", 160#, bottom, seeking a top for relationship. No one night stands. Be under 50, any race. ☎ 1621.

Self Made Boy Seeks Caring Dad

Boy is 24, bld/blu, 5'8", 130#, social & financially responsible; likes warm cuddling after rough play sessions, HIV+ but full of life. Dad should be prof, secure, hairy, monogamous. ☎ 1622.

Bottom Dad Seeks Top Son

25-45, to share a good life w/professional GWM, 41, 5'6", 135#, HIV-. Must be goal/power/wealth focused. N/A/D/S. ☎ 1620.

Uncomplicated Sex Only

GWM, 48, 175#, HIV-, seeks GM for weekly twice weekly sex. No romantic relationship sought just sexual fun w/no strings. Dick size unimportant. ☎ 1626.

Summer Adventure

29, GWM, easy going, wants to explore life, seek cute travel buddy under 35. Let's share expenses & drive to LA in Aug. Love the beach, dancing & hanging out. ☎ 1627.

Asian Son/Little Brother

Wanted for relationship w/professional GWM, 45, grown, reasonably spiky, kind, caring, 5'11", 175#, HIV-. Prefer fit, smooth, 18-40ish, basically self-sufficient. NS/ND. ☎ 1628.

Nice Guy Seeks Same

Attractive, HIV+, 5'8", 135#, mustache, brn/blu, 44, top, intense character, quick witted, enduring integrity, good company. Seeks partner, apx 6'2", 180#, mustache, total bottom, very oral, passionate, unrelentingly loyal, emotionally resilient. ☎ 1629.

Muscular Attraction

Monogamous, muscular male enjoys dating, film, TV, cooking, art, fashion, mutually w/interests & tilpap. I'm 40s+, smooth, black/brown, 5'7", 150#, 40 C, 30 W, 14 A, monogamous, HIV-, NS/ND. Likes similar GWM. ☎ 1681.

Seeking A Muscular Black Male

Muscular GWM, 38, looking to date a well defined, smooth guy black male, who is honest, sincere, & stable. Let's try it. ☎ 1682.

Athletic Guy

Religious, spontaneous, & fun. Asian, 48, 5'9", 180#, seeks clean-shaven, affectionate, in-shape guy for adventurous companion like sports, workouts, ethnic foods, dancing, arts, & travel. ☎ 1688.

On The Road 180 Dixon-Davis

Calif. license plate #3AZ2223, Wed. June 19, 11:30 AM. Gave mutual nods, but split at Reno turn off--felt good, hope you find this!! ☎ 1806.

Kaiser-Walnut Creek

Exchanged glances few months ago. You in blue shirt, me in suit. Let's re-acknow. edge and go from here. ☎ 1806.

Just Your Basic Ingredients

Attr. GWM, 35, 5'10", 170#, brn/blu, bald on top, goatee, average build, versatile, semi vegan, closet smkr, homebody, recreation, entertainment, romantic, seek similar. No relationship phobics pls. ☎ 1711.

YMCAs At Embarcadero

Mister, Mister, Mister! I saw you. You knock my socks off. Come to Powerhouse. Don't let the wheelchair fool you. Call to find out when? ☎ 1851.

GAM Looking For Love

Attractive Asian, 30's, 5'6", 140#, HIV+, healthy. Enjoy music, movies, cooking, kiss & love making. Looking to share the secret of life w/someone special.

You're tall & trim w/verses sexual personal. ☎ 1712.

Cuts Ex-Model Seeks Older Man

New in USA, 26, 6'1", 160#, smooth baby skin, cube buns, track marks, muscle

muscle, HIV+, 34, blue, brown, 6', 180#, handsome, w/verses sexual personal. ☎ 1713.

Hot/Latin 35/6'1" 180# Hndsome

Top, bottom, middle, cocksure, laid-back, safe, 69, shows off, cut XBX bone & bubble butt, & like to worship uncut men. ☎ 1714.

Asian Looking For Romantic

Very galling Chinese, new in the city seeking GWM, under 45; for friendship. I'm 34, 5'8", 150#, HIV+, serious replies only. ☎ 1715.

GWM 5'11" 190# Adrift At Sea

8m/blu, goatee, HIV+, top, looking for safe harbor of tender care-romance & love to drop my anchor in forever. Keep me safe from the storms. I'll keep your home fires burning forever. ☎ 1734.

East Bay HIV+ Top Wanted

Male hairy, tall, bald, smooth, muscle

HIV+, 34, blue, brown, 6', 180#, handsome, w/verses sexual personal. ☎ 1736.

Santa Rosa GWM Nudist 38

6', 190#, hairy chest, bubble butt, toned

& tan, NS/ND, versatile, seeks similar. ☎ 1807.

Romantic Attractive GWM

23, brn/blu, 5'10", 165#, athletic, down to earth, loves music, movies, & has a lust

for life, seeks romantic, athletic, GLM/GWM w/adventurous spirit for friendship or? ??? ☎ 1808.

Beefy Weight lifter Seeks

Grotesquely overdeveloped muscle-bound

freak who's hungry for passion. Wrap your monstrous arms around me & kiss me deep while our shamed & older bodies

flex & bulge against each other. ☎ 1809.

Looking For Owner

Attractive, 23, hairy chest, w/verses sexual personal. ☎ 1811.

This

South Bay, slim active fit, 50+, HIV+, guy

would like to meet similar guy for friend

ship, expansions, dinners, sex. ☎ 1810.

Any Real People?

WM, 50, Bi sex, M/F, 25-75, for fun. I

enjoy city walks, gardening, bike riding etc. Age/looks not important. Thanks. ☎ 1812.

Kinkish Than A Twisted Slinky

Hairy-furry, full-spectrum play, seeks a man who's open to exploration inside & out. Must be equally skilled at knife play & kissing, butt work & cuddling. Be courageous enough for intimacy. ☎ 1813.

HIV+ GWM/GLM Lover Wanted

Cute 33, GWM, 6', 170#, brn/blu, smooth romantic top w/verses clean sheahan

, stable, healthy, NS, hairy bottom, 28-37, for LTR. Height & weight in proportion. Please call. ☎ 1814.

Goodlooking Latino 29

5'11", 190#, Dark skin, eyes, hair, HIV-, seeking Latin or whites, 22-35, for friendship maybe more. ☎ 1815.

Sex And Sensibility

GWM, 54, 6', 180#, brn/blu, mustache, top. UB: 30-45, trim, bright, NS/ND, GWM, bottom, arts lover, home body. S 1837.

Sensitive GWM Seeks GAM

For quiet times in SF. Relationship oriented/professional/lives to laugh/clean shaven. 5'11", 215#, HIV-, 29 yo. ☎ 1838.

Looking For Mr. Right

GAM, 20, 5'6", 130#, HIV- seeking

GWM 18-26, gorking, honest, romantic, affectionate, HIV-. In shape for friendship or more, poss. LTR. ☎ 1841.

Black Bear Wants Honey

Alone I stand 5'5", 240#, as black as the night that descends upon me. On how I long for the honey like the love you offer. ☎ 1840.

Goodlooking! All-American!

GWM, 51 yo, seeking GWM, very handsome guy into fun, friendship, maybe even romance. I live on Hob Hill. ☎ 1841.

Masculine/Handsome/Professional

GBM, 41, HIV-, 180#, hirsute lean

"bear" new to SF seeks spiritual, intellectual, emotional secure late 30's-early 40's

masculine: varied interests: Gay, Art, German. Race open. ☎ 1842.

LESBIAN

Calling All Femmes!

Wanted: women who are Lesbians because they love women & not because they hate men. Are you a woman who likes being treated like a lady? Call me. ☎ 1737.

If You Speak French

I'm French girl. I speak just a little English. I'm looking for girls who speak French. I'm Cred, I'm 23. ☎ 1847.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Expert Cock sucker

Senior, GWM, 57", 130#, begs to worship mask, verbal, topman. Only, over 40, wgt proportion, Cauc or Asian. ☎ 1624.

Train Top-Paw To Your Rqmts

Long-suppressed desire/need hunger needs

explore training. Call me. ☎ 42, 5'11", 180#, beard, w/verses. ☎ 1625.

All American Horny Hung Musc

BM, 28, 5'9", 185#, 45C, 17A, 31W, 9X6

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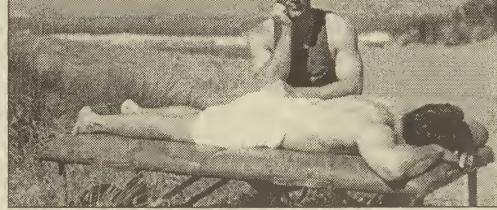
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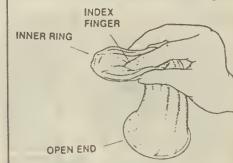
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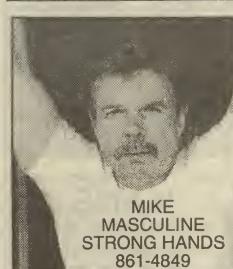
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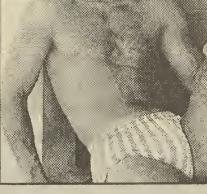
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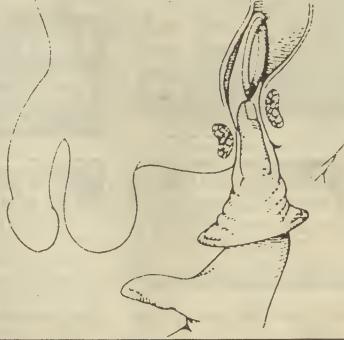
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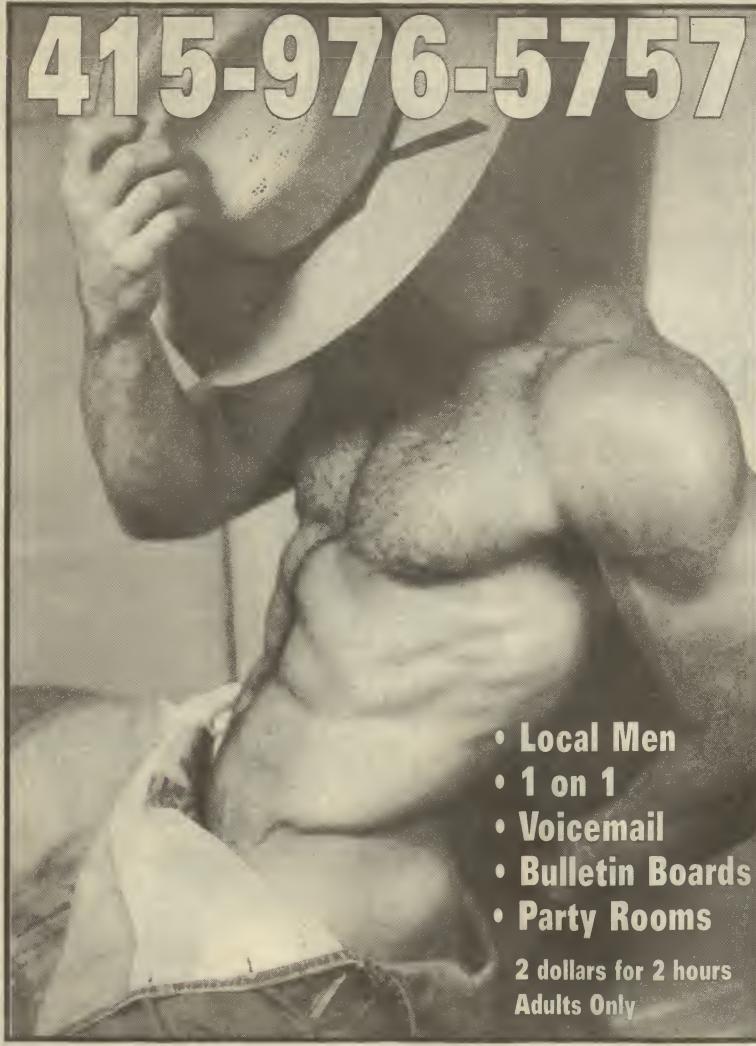
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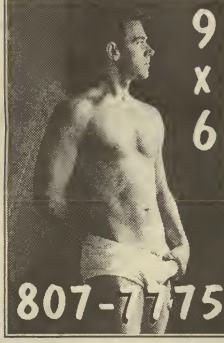
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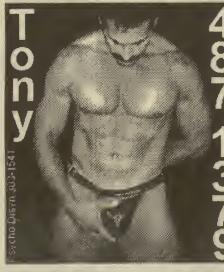
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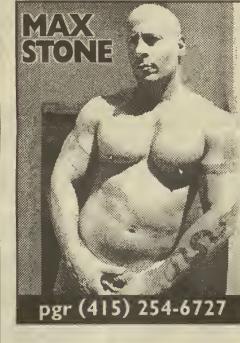
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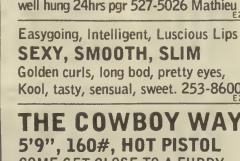
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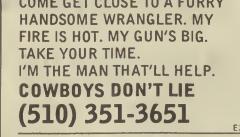
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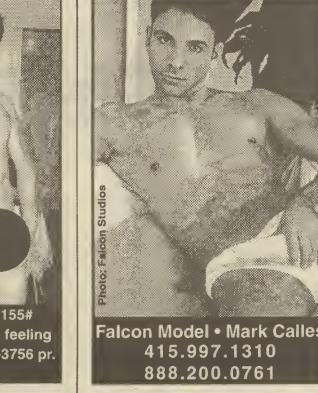
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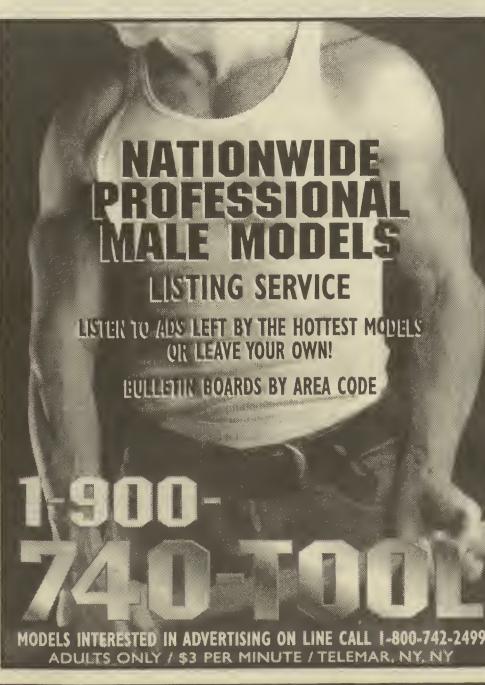
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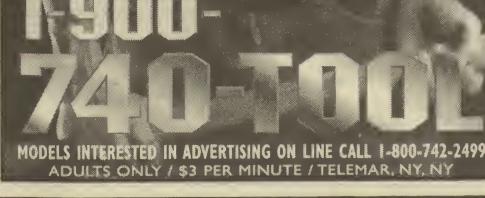
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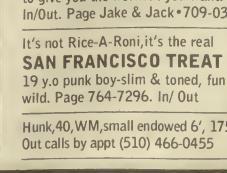
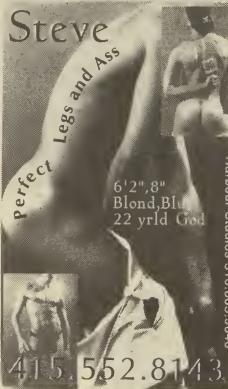
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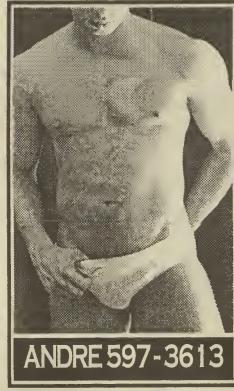


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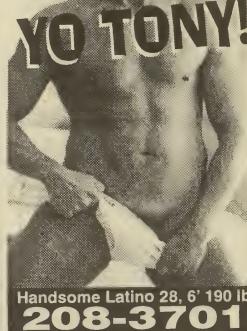
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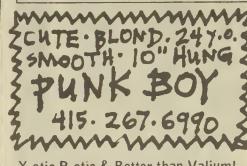
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